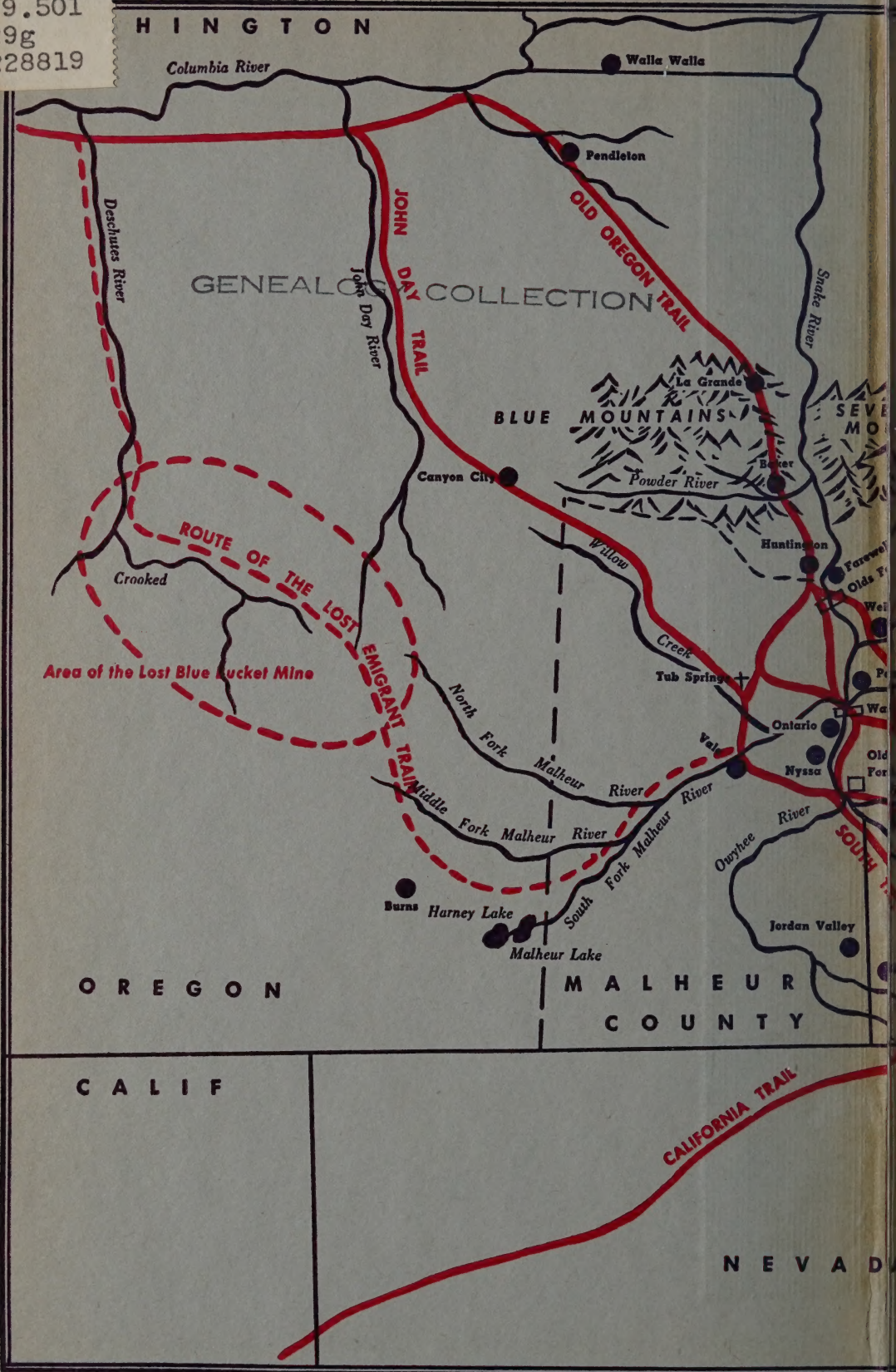


PIONEER DAYS IN
MALHEUR COUNTY

JACOB RAY GREGG

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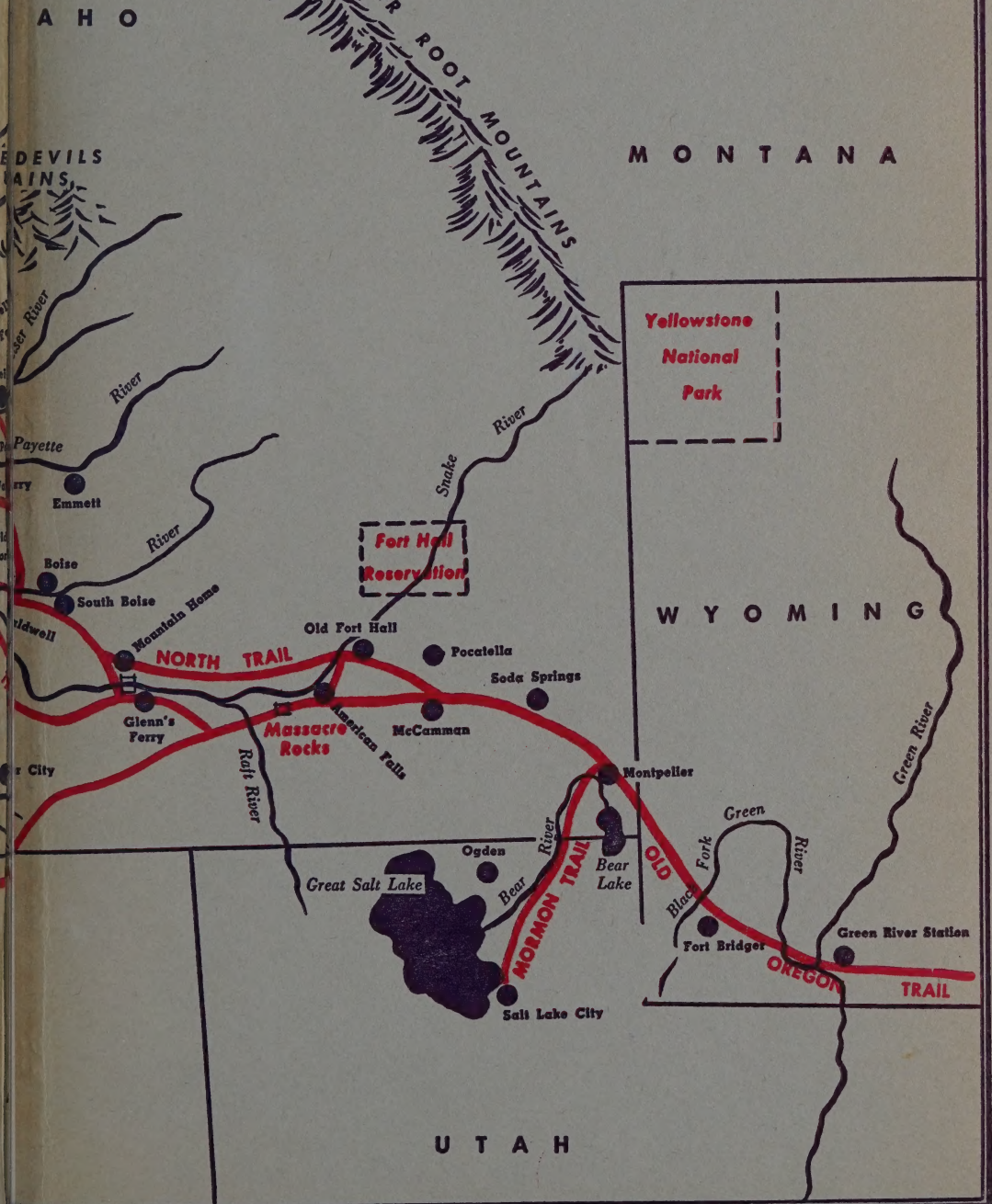
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Over the wagon tracks diverge
Like strands of a parted skein
Anon the Old Trail straightened out
And gathered them in again.

—Mrs. J. C. DAVIS




*Pioneer Days in
Malheur County*

*J. R. Gregg.
Author*



The Author at Age 44



Pioneer Days in Malheur County

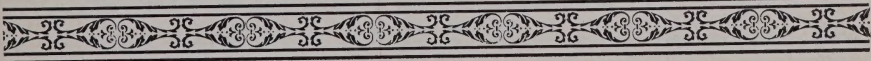
*Perpetuating the Memory of Prominent Pioneers
and
Preserving an Authentic History of the County
as told to*

Jacob Ray Gregg

*Pioneer Newspaper Publisher
and a former
Postmaster of Ontario*



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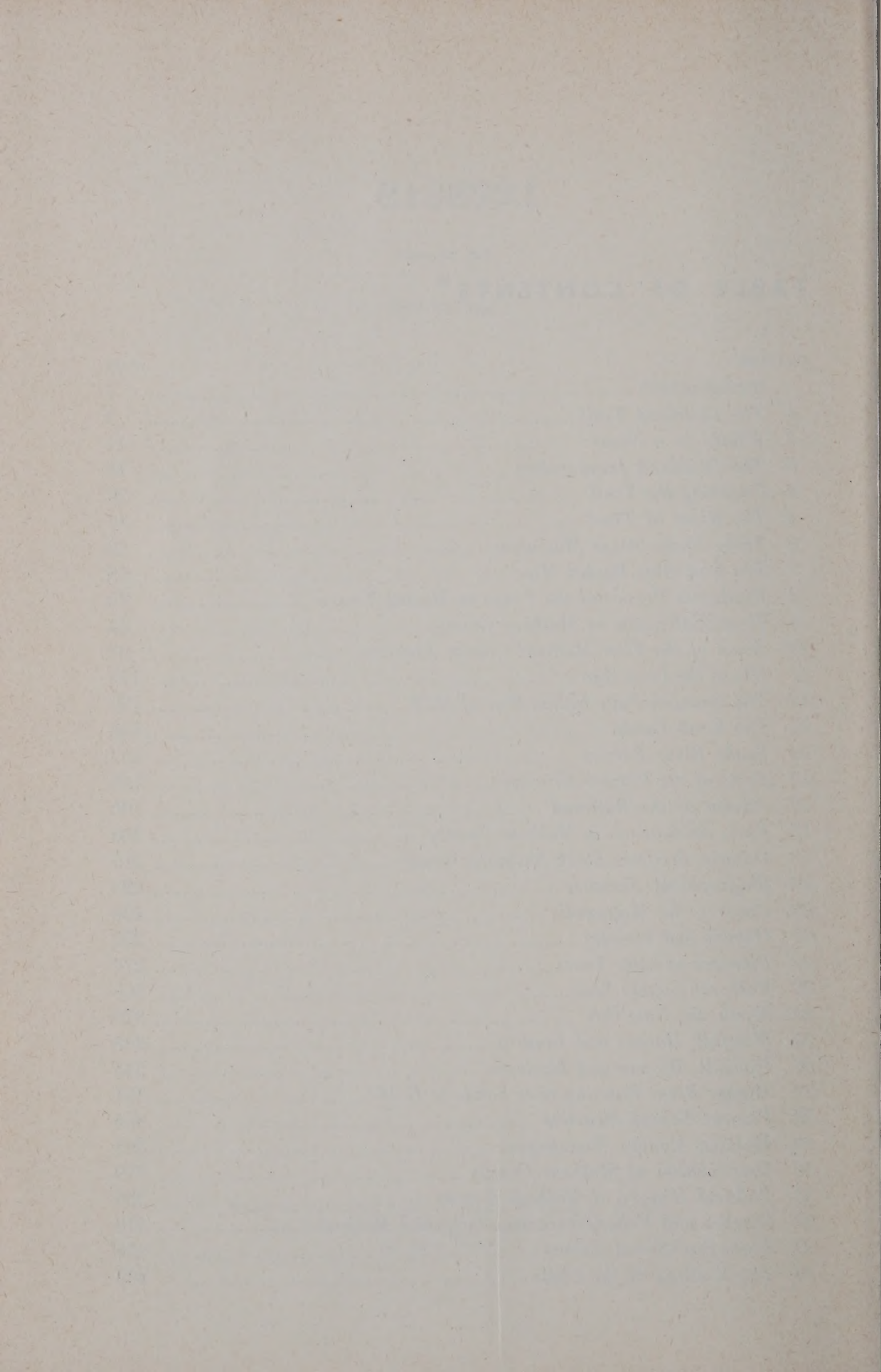
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*This history is dedicated
to my three children,
Laura Alma, Carole E. and Dorothy Rae,
all native daughters
of Ontario, Malheur County, Oregon.*

INTRODUCTION

*"Oh, for a touch of the vanished hand,
And a sound of the voice that is still."*

INCIDENTS that led up to my decision to record many historical events of Malheur county for the benefit of this and future generations dates back over a period of thirty years, beginning in 1918, when I was postmaster of Ontario. From the time of my arrival in Malheur county, at the age of fifteen, in 1886, I became greatly interested in pioneer stories related by G. W. Brinnon and other first settlers dating back to 1863. Most of the facts dating from 1886 to the present are written from personal knowledge.

In 1918, my wife, who was a member of the *Ontario Work and Win Club*—the leading ladies' society in the city—was asked to read a paper on county history. Study of history was an important feature of the organization which originated and promoted the building of the present public library in the city. She asked to be excused because she considered she was not well enough informed on the subject. Some members suggested that, as I had been engaged in newspaper work in the county for many years, I could aid her in preparing the paper.

After the paper was read at a club meeting two well-informed pioneers on early day events, A. H. McGregor and R. S. Rutherford, called at my home to insist that I write a history of the county. They supplied me with many interesting facts that I have woven into this work. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Stroup supplied me with more historic data. At later dates J. A. Lackey, J. R. Blackaby, W. G. Thomson, Arthur W. Glenn, John E. Johnson and James Morfitt furnished me much more authentic information. All these prominent pioneers have long since "passed over the great divide." But most of them were still living at the time my *Intimate History of the Early Days in Malheur County* was published in the *Ontario Argus* and *Vale Enterprise* in 1930-31.

I am also indebted to Frank B. Glenn of Vale—a continuous resident of the county for over three-quarters of a century—and Mrs. Elizabeth Brinnon Brosnan, who, as a very small girl, came in 1868, and now resides at Vancouver, Washington, for much valuable information. Others include Judge Thomas Jones, Mrs. Susan M. Morton, her son, Murray R. Morton; Harry B. Clement, P. J. Gallagher, Judge Frank P. Ryan, B. W. Mulkey,

Mrs. Mary Locey Hyde, all of Ontario; Ernest Locey, of Ironside; James E. Lawrence, of Baker; County Clerk Harry S. Sackett and Russell Scott, grandson of Ontario's first postmaster, now residing in Vale.

Other sources of information are H. H. Bancroft's *History of Oregon, Vols. I and II*; Washington Irving's *Astoria*; Hiatt's *History of Baker County*; Western Historical Publishing Company's *History of Baker, Grant, Malheur and Harney Counties*; Ezra Meeker's *The Ox Team*; Harvey Scott's *History of the Oregon Country*; Haily's *History of Idaho*; Blackmar's *Kansas, Vol II*; *Kansas Sketch Book*, by Margaret Witman; the *Portland Oregonian*, *Idaho Statesman* of Boise, *Ontario Argus* and *Argus-Observer*.

A habit I early acquired in writing is to quote a stanza from a favorite poem to more clearly express a sentiment or emphasize a thought. I have followed the custom in this volume and ask the reader to abide with me in this indulgence.

J. R. GREGG.

REQUEST FOR THE STORY

*Green be the turf above thee,
Friend of my better days!
None knew thee but to love thee,
Nor named thee but to praise.*
—F. G. Halleck.

Vale, Oregon, July 28, 1930.

J. R. Gregg,
Devore, California.
Dear friend:

It is some time since I received your good letter. I have been tardy about writing, partly because I wanted to know what day our pioneer celebration would come on. Our committee, of which I am a member, had a meeting yesterday and we set the date of the celebration for August 22nd.

I mentioned the fact that you were in hope of being able to meet with us this year, and as most of the committee know you, they expressed themselves as hoping you would come. They also wished me to ask you to favor us with a paper, giving some of your early experiences and knowledge of the happenings in Malheur county.

Such papers are generally interesting to the audience. Knowing that you had been a long time in the newspaper business they take it for granted that you are well qualified to write an interesting paper. If you decide to favor us with a paper we hope you can bring it, but if anything prevents you from coming, then you can mail it to me.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I am, ever, your sincere friend.

JOHN E. JOHNSON.

(I had been planning for some time to write a history of Malheur county, but at that time being steadily employed in the Maintenance Department of the California State Highway, I was not then in a position to write the history. However, I wrote the paper requested by the committee, sent it to Mr. Johnson and it was published in the Vale and Ontario papers.)

COMPLIMENTARY

Ontario, Oregon, October 28, 1930.

Dear friend:

I was glad to get your letter, to hear from you once more. Our old pioneer friends are growing fewer all the time. There is no one left that I can talk to that lived in the early days, and would understand about these happenings. It is a lonesome feeling. I try not to dwell on it very much.

I have been reading your "Early History" in the *Ontario Argus and Vale Enterprise*. I am glad you are writing this history. I consider you a public benefactor. So many people are interested and enjoy reading it. You tell it as I remember the facts.

I received the scrap book and I am very much pleased with it, indeed. I do prize it highly, more than I can express to you. For this history means many pleasant recollections to me and some more of a trying nature to us who lived in those days. I like the book form you have put it in; so much so the way you head each chapter with a verse apropos of the subject matter, or expressing something of the same sentiment. Some of these lines are particularly beautiful and prepare the mind for reading the chapter. Just here I can't refrain from telling you how especially touching and how pleasing the lines entitled: "Isle of the Long Ago."

Answering your request, I have no criticism to offer on the work. The wonder is, how did you get all the data you have here and remember it to put in a book.

The weather here is just as usual at this time of year. One long bright day of sunshine with gorgeous coloring in the leaves in the orchards where the trees are bending to the ground with their burdens, plenty and to spare for all.

*The sun is warm and bright,
The leaves are brown and gold,
Ever gently drifting down
To find a grave upon the ground,
Where winter's snow will cover o'er
To Mother Earth her own restore.*

Love and kind wishes to all the family. I am, as ever, yours sincerely.
S.D. STROUP.

Extract from letter to the author by Judge Will R. King, in 1932:

"I read with much interest your story in the *Argus* and congratulate you on your accuracy of 'Ancient Times' in Malheur county."

Frank P. Ryan, a regional Vice-President of the Oregon Trail, Inc., who read the manuscript of this history before the book was printed, wrote me: "I am greatly pleased that you have finally made arrangements to have your book published. I think you have done a wonderful work to record events of the past to the end that the coming generations may know what our forefathers have done and the experiences they went through, and I am sure that when they read of such experiences, it will have a tendency to make better men and women of them."

From letter written by Edward L. King, in December, 1945:

"Your *Intimate History of Malheur County* is the best, by far, of anything ever compiled on the subject, and it will always remain the best. It is marvelous you were willing to devote so much time and energy to it. No one but you would have done it."



CHAPTER I

THE OVERLAND TRAIL

*Over the desert sagebrush gray,
Through alkali patches pale,
Stretches away, and away, and away—
The weary overland trail.*



THE ABOVE LINES from the pen of Mrs. J. C. Davis recall vividly to the older pioneers of Malheur county incidents in their early lives, when they crossed the great American desert in a "prairie schooner" to the far Northwest over the Oregon Trail. Here to find new homes in the West and to help found an empire that added one of the brightest stars in the Union.

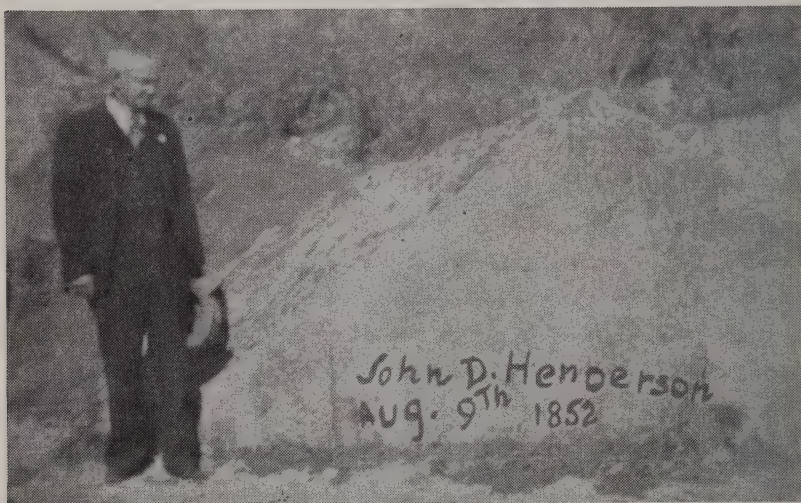
This first chapter of *Pioneer Days in Malheur County* is, in part, a revision of a paper I prepared for the Malheur County Pioneer Association, at the request of the program committee for its annual meeting at Vale, Oregon, in August, 1930. Other excerpts are reproduced in subsequent chapters.

"Your committee has kindly asked me to give some of my early experiences and knowledge of happenings in Malheur county in pioneer days. I realize that my personal experience would not be as interesting to the members of the Pioneer Society, or of as much historical value as are some of the legends and anecdotes that I have heard related by a number of pioneers who preceded me by several years to this land of promise; those real pioneers who came West in covered wagons.

In briefly relating some of these early incidents I shall mention the names of a few of those sturdy pioneers and their devoted wives who braved the West and endured the many trials, hardships and privations encountered on the long, adventurous journey. Most of those whom I shall mention have gone ahead of us 'over the Great Divide into the dark valley to be bourne from whence no traveler has ever returned.' No more will their familiar voices mingle with ours as we gather in the shadow of the Old Stone House in Vale to join in singing Tenting Tonight on the Old Camp Ground, and other familiar songs. So I shall tell their stories for them, briefly, as best I can."

On account of the rough and unbroken roads over which the undaunted pioneers traveled many of the men and some of the women and children were compelled to walk part of the journey in order to lighten the loads on the wagons. Especially was this true when some of the stock died or vehicles were broken down and had to be left behind. The route was dotted here and there by the graves of those who had died on the long journey.

There is an emigrant grave, said to be that of a woman, near the head of the Nevada ditch in a clump of willows; perhaps secreted there to prevent Indians from finding it and exhuming the corpse. Stones were piled on the grave for the purpose of preventing coyotes and other wild animals from digging into it. In 1894, while I was working with a crew of men, repairing the headgate and upper portion of the ditch which had been damaged by



—Photo by Julian M. Field

*The Author at the Grave of
John D. Henderson.*

high water, John R. Johnson, the foreman, directed us to this grave. Mr. Johnson was formerly foreman for the Pacific Live Stock Company at the Harper ranch and I worked for him there two years before.

A little farther back over the old emigrant road, on the west side of the Rinehart buttes and about a mile southeast of Vale, are five more graves of those weary travelers who failed to reach their destination. In company with Julian M. Field, editor of the *Ontario Argus* and *The Sundial*, and George H. Gilham, Union Pacific freight agent at Ontario, and their wives,

I visited one of these graves on a Sunday in May, 1941. When Mr. Gilham was a boy residing in Vale his father Ad. Gilham was Deputy County Clerk. He had visited this emigrant cemetery many times in his boyhood so he easily directed us. It is the only one of the five graves of which any trace can be found. The headstone that marks the grave is of native stone found at the foot of the butte. The following inscription is carved on its face:

"John D. Henderson, August 9, 1852."

There is nothing else to indicate who John D. Henderson was; where he came from; where he was going; or the cause of his death. Was he an old man, middle aged, or in his prime? All this is buried with him in his lonely grave at the foot of the butte.

The state highway between Vale and Nyssa passes very close to the grave as it follows along the path of the old Oregon Trail, and the shoulders of the highway now cover the grave, and the inscription on the tombstone is less than a foot above the grade. Mr. Gilham says that the inscription was formerly two feet above the ground surface and that the inscription is not nearly so plain as the last time he visited the grave. It is growing dimmer and, if not preserved, may become illegible within a few years.

A state highway employee, who drove up while we were at the grave, informed us that the highway passes over two other graves, not far from the Henderson grave. A. W. Glenn later informed me that relatives or friends of these emigrants returned there a number of years ago, exhumed the bodies, and removed them to a cemetery farther west. In my pioneer story published in the *Malheur Enterprise* and *Ontario Argus* in 1930 I mentioned that two of the graves were nearly washed out by unusually high water in the Malheur river some time before.

There is another emigrant grave, that of a little girl about six years old, who died on lower Willow creek near the former town of Glennville, at the time her parents were passing through the valley in 1877. Her name was Gertrude Wentworth. She died near the home of J. A. Morton. Mr. and Mrs. Morton prepared the little girl for burial, Mr. Morton making the wooden coffin and Mrs. Morton making the funeral shroud. This grave was well-tended for many years by John and Joe Brosnan who, as boys, resided nearby. When herding their father's live stock they often passed and cared for the stone-covered grave. These two boys never knew the little girl whose grave they tended for so many years. She died long before they were born. Mrs. Lizzie Brosnan informed me that at one time she intended to have an iron railing placed around the grave. Her youngest son, Joe, who now owns the Brosnan stock farm, has carried out his mother's wishes and, thanks to him, here is one emigrant grave in the county that has been preserved.

The kindly acts of Mr. and Mrs. Morton in preparing the little stranger for burial and the comforting of her parents, as well as the generous acts

of Mrs. Brosnan and her two sons, are very commendable in exhibiting the true pioneer spirit. Mr. and Mrs. Morton, now both deceased, are buried in the cemetery at Jamieson, not far from the lonesome grave on the hillside. The Mortons were the parents of Mrs. Frances Sells, recently deceased, and many of their descendants reside in Malheur county. Murray Morton, one of their grandsons, is a former county assessor.

Mrs. Lizzie Brosnan now resides with her daughter, Mrs. Ella Zuts, in Vancouver, Washington. John Brosnan is a prominent stockman and farmer of the Ontario vicinity.

Five more emigrants are buried near the old emigrant ford on the Owyhee, about a mile from the river's mouth. They were members of the Otter party, who died from starvation and exposure in the fall of 1860, after the captain of the train and some of the other members had been killed by Indians. Not far from the site where these five unfortunates found their last resting place, Christopher Trimble, the eleven-year-old hero of the party, sleeps in an unmarked grave.

Near Farewell Bend, on the Snake river, eight more members of the the Otter party lie buried in one grave, where they were murdered and mutilated by Indians. These dead were found and buried by soldiers who had been sent out from Fort Walla Walla after news of the massacre had been brought by two members of the party sent ahead for help.

A member of the lost emigrant train, who had wandered from the trail at the Malheur river ford, Mrs. S. Chambers, is buried on the old Winnie Scott place in Agency Valley in the western part of the county. Mrs. Chambers died September 3, 1845. Her grave, which has been cared for by Winnie Scott and others, is just north of the Beulah reservoir near the boundary line between Malheur and Harney counties. There may be other emigrant graves along the trail in Malheur county. In my original story I suggested that the matter of caring for these graves be taken up by some local civic society and the old emigrant trail marked by placing fitting monuments at the graves in the county.

The One Hundredth Anniversary, commemorating the year the first wagon train traveled the Oregon Trail the entire distance, was observed in 1943. Walter Meacham, executive secretary of the *Oregon Trail Centennial Commission*, visited Malheur county and arranged for proper steps to be taken to mark the emigrant graves and historic places along the trail within the county. A committee, headed by Hon. Frank P. Ryan, city recorder of Ontario, was named to select the historic sites where stone monuments and cedar markers should be erected. Two of the markers have already been placed, one at Vale and one at Olds Ferry. About twenty-five more cedar markers are to be placed along the trail in the county. The committee intends to have monuments of native stone erected at the more important historic sites in the county.

In 1906, when Ezra Meeker relocated the path of the *Oregon Trail*, an impressive monument of native stone was erected on the court house grounds at Vale and was dedicated to the memory of the Oregon pioneers at a fitting ceremony. This is one of the nineteen monuments dedicated by Mr. Meeker between the Missouri river and the Columbia.

The hot springs at Vale was a favorite camping place for emigrants. They would stop there for a few days to rest and let their stock graze. It was also a favorite camping ground of the Indians. There is an Indian burying ground on the side of Rinehart buttes, now generally known as the Vale buttes. The Indians buried their dead in the lava rocks high up on the hillside. I have some Indian beads that I collected from one of the graves when I was working at the head of the Nevada ditch. The grave had been opened previously by the relic seekers.

There is another Indian burying-ground on the side of Castle Rock, near Beulah, in the western part of the county. These Indian burials took place many years ago, some of them before the establishment of the Indian reservation in Agency valley, in 1873. The valley had long been the home of some of the Piute tribe before the reservation was established and the agency guarded by United States troops.

The remains of soldiers who died and were buried on this reservation were later removed to the National Cemetery at Arlington, Virginia. One night in the early 90's, I was a passenger on an Ontario-Burns stage coach traveling between Vale and Ontario which also carried boxes containing the bones of three soldiers that were being conveyed from Beulah to Ontario. In Ontario they were put aboard a train for the long journey to their final resting place.

Referring to the period between 1862 and 1878, Hiatt, the Baker county historian, said:

"In those days it was no unusual thing for persons who were traveling the country from Burnt river southward to the headwaters of the Owyhee to find the remains of men who had doubtless been killed by Indians. Notwithstanding the well-known danger, men would go through the country, sometimes alone, sometimes in small parties, and, in all probability, few of those who perished left any trace that was ever discovered to tell their fate."

Quoting from the *History of Baker, Grant, Malheur and Harney Counties*, published by the Western Historical Publishing Company in 1902, page 520:

"In those days the country was infested by several Indian tribes living in this section of the state, the Piutes and Bannocks being the strongest. Small predatory bands of redskins haunted the emigrant roads and trails, and many a lonely prospector or traveler suddenly disappeared from sight. His bleaching bones, and beside them two or three arrows, found perhaps months afterwards under the foliage of a clump of sage brush, only too plainly told the story of his end. These murders were not infrequent during the Sixties' nor did they entirely cease until the Indian War of 1878 thoroughly subdued the savages."

According to G. W. Brinnon and some others who were here in the

early '60's, the Malheur butte on the Malheur river, about six miles west of Ontario, was used by Indians as a lookout tower from which they spied on emigrant trains and lonely travelers. From the top of this ancient landmark one can obtain a grand panoramic view of the Malheur and Snake river valleys for miles around. More than once in my boyhood days I enjoyed the grand view from the top of the butte. But that was many years after the red men had vanished.

While with the *Ontario News* I wrote this item, which appeared in the columns of that paper, September 28, 1898:

"A number of Ontario's young folks organized an exploring expedition last Sunday and went in search of the highest pinnacle of the Malheur butte. Those who succeeded in reaching the summit were Misses Etta Williams, Jeffie Jones, Iva Purcell, Mabel Moore, Annie Danielson and May Meeker; Messrs. E. L. and A. S. King, Clifton Boyer and J. R. Gregg."

Climbing the Malheur butte now is not as difficult as it was then. In those days there was no road on the north side of the river, as there is now, that takes one by automobile more than half way to the summit. Fifty years ago, we had to start climbing on foot from near the river and climb along the west side of the butte, circle around to the north side, and from there continue the climb to the summit.

There is no authentic account of explorations in Malheur county prior to 1860. But if the statement of James J. McAllister is true, three Frenchmen passed through the Malheur river canyon about the year 1775, one year before the beginning of the American Revolutionary War, and some thirty years before the Lewis and Clark exploring expedition reached the Columbia river basin in 1805.

According to McAllister, the names of the three men were Lavalley, who McAllister claimed as his great-grandfather, Charbonneau, and Nadeau. If this story is authentic, it appears they were the first white men to set foot on Malheur county soil. McAllister's story, which appeared in the Pioneer Department of the *Idaho Sunday Statesman*, of Boise, May 6, 1928, states that the three men left France for San Diego, California, in 1774. From Spain they sailed on a Spanish merchant ship loaded with supplies for the Catholic Mission at San Diego, established by Father Junipero Serra in 1769.

Unable to get along amicably with the Spanish at San Diego, the three Frenchmen started overland for Montreal, Canada. They traveled north through California and Oregon, until they came to the headwaters of the Malheur river and followed down the stream through Malheur canyon to the Snake river. Crossing the Snake, they went up the Boise river and spent the winter at the hot springs near the present city of Boise.

One of the Frenchmen, Narcesse Charbonneau, was killed by Indians and buried near Boise. According to the writer he was the first white man buried in Idaho. The other two Frenchmen never reached Canada. LaValley

married a French-Indian woman of the Monobannock tribe and Nadeau married a Shoshone squaw.

According to McAllister, Charbonneau had left a son in France, who later came to Montreal to look for his father. Coming on west through the Great Lakes region he finally reached the Missouri river where his way westward was blocked by the war-like Blackfeet. He started trapping on the Missouri and became the husband of Sacajawea, the Shoshone Indian woman, who guided the Lewis and Clark expedition across the Rocky Mountains.

The first white men definitely known to have penetrated the Snake river valley were members of the John Jacob Astor overland expedition, led by Wilson Price Hunt, who, in 1811, pioneered the way from St. Louis, Missouri, to Astoria, Oregon. John Day, for whom the John Day river was named, was a member of this party, which numbered about forty persons.

The next two parties of white men to travel the valley passed through in 1832. These two parties were not as large as the Astor party. One of the parties was led by B. E. F. Bonneville and the other by Nathaniel J. Wyeth.

CHAPTER 2

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

"What's in a name?"

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet!"

—William Shakespeare.

This unanswerable statement by the Bard of Avon does in no way alter the fact that tragedy and romance are connected with naming some of the great rivers and many smaller streams of the West. The names of the two most important rivers in Malheur county, the Malheur and Owyhee, are linked with tragedy. These two streams now supply water for two of the most important irrigating systems of the West, the Vale and Owyhee projects.

According to an ancient legend the name which Malheur county bears was first given to the river by a party of French trappers attached to old Fort Boise. The word is of French origin, meaning *bad hour*. Tradition relates that sometime during the early part of the Nineteenth century a party of French trappers in search of furs ascended the river to its headwaters.

The trip was unsuccessful. The party was attacked by Indians, who killed some of the trappers, wounded others, and robbed them of their furs. Other members of the party took sick and some of them died. Naturally this long train of misfortune caused them to name the river *Mal*—bad or unfortunate; *heur*—hour or time; *bad hour*; or translating more freely, *the unhappy river*.

There is also a tradition that the Owyhee river was given its name long ago after two Hawaiians, members of another party of Hudson Bay Company trappers, were killed by Indians somewhere along its banks. The island of Hawaii was originally called Owyhee Island.

The Columbia has been called "the river of many names." First known as the *Wauna* by the ancient Walamet Indians; later called the *Yakaitwimahl* by the Chinook tribe, and *Wemath* by other tribes. It was first known to early explorers as the *Great River of the West*, and then named *St. Roque* by a Spanish navigator, Heceta, who claimed to have discovered the mouth of the river while sailing along the Oregon coast about 1778.

It has also been called *Chete la Belle* (beautiful river), *Tacootche Tesse*, *Rio Augilar* and the *Oregon*. Captain Robert Gray, the Boston sea merchant and navigator—the first white man to discover and enter the mouth of the river and navigate its waters—bestowed upon it the name *Columbia*, in honor of the sailing ship he was commanding.

It is generally accepted as a fact that Jonathan Carver, a native of Vermont—who led an exploring party as far west as Minnesota in 1766—bestowed the name *Oregon* on the *Great River of the West*, and that he coined the name that the state still bears, although discarded by the river. It is a significant fact that Carver never saw the river on which he bestowed the name *Oregon*. He never came farther West than Minnesota.

The meaning of the word "Oregon" is not definitely defined, except that some historians aver that the discoverers of that territory named the river and adjacent country from wild oreganums growing in the western part of the state. Others have tried to connect the word with the Spanish, Portuguese and various Indian languages. Hubert Howe Bancroft, the reliable American historian, has made this deduction:

"In regard to the word Oregon, its signification and origin, I will give what I know: The first appearance in print was in the work of Jonathan Carver, who therein represents that he heard from natives in the vicinity of the headwaters of the Mississippi, to which region he penetrated as early as 1766, of a great river flowing into the great western ocean, and called by them the Oregon, Oregan, or Organ. Nothing is said by Carver of the meaning of the word. It is doubtful if Carver understood the natives, or whether they made such a statement, though there may have been some sound or symbol by which or from which to coin the word."

Like the Columbia, the Snake river, its main tributary, is another river of many names. According to J. J. McAllister, the Snake river was called *Scischatenates* by an ancient Indian tribe. Between the canyon and the



—From a U. S. Government Lithograph.

Interior of Old Fort Boise, established in 1835, a rival trading post to Fort Hall, established a year or so earlier.



—From a U. S. Government Lithograph.

Exterior of Old Fort Boise.

mouth of the river it was called *Kimooenim* by the Nez Perce. The upper portion of the stream was named *Lewis* river in honor of Captain Meriwether Lewis, of the Lewis and Clark exploring expedition. It has also been called the *Shoshone*, *Les Serpents* and *Snake* river. Two reasons have been given for the designation of Snake river. One is that it was named for the Snake Indians, a name applied to the Shoshone-Bannock tribe. Another version is that it was named Snake river on account of its crooked and winding course. If the last version is correct that may account for the Shoshones and Bannocks being called Snake Indians. The name seems to be well chosen either way.

The name of the Boise river is of French origin, meaning woody, or wooded river. For several years following the massacre of the John Reed trapping party by Indians on its banks, near the present town of Caldwell, in January, 1814, the Boise river was known as *Reed's* river.

Old Fort Boise, erected by the Hudson Bay Company in 1835, stood on the east bank of the Snake, a short distance below the mouth of the Boise, which empties into the Snake from the Idaho side, and the Owyhee, which empties into the Snake from the Oregon side. The fort takes its name from the Boise river. It was the custom of the Hudson Bay Company to name their trading posts for rivers in the localities in which the posts were located. At the time the fort was built there was considerable timber along the Boise river, especially further up stream in the mountains, hence the name Boise, or Woody river.

The original Fort Boise was a stockade about one hundred feet square built by setting long cottonwood poles in a trench and fastening them together at the top. The quarters inside the stockade were also built of cottonwood logs. The enclosure and buildings were afterward rebuilt of adobe and considerably improved. Fort Boise was erected by the Hudson Bay Company as a rival to Fort Hall that had been built in 1834 by Nathaniel J. Wyeth, representing a company of Boston merchants. The British fur company acquired Fort Hall from the Columbia River Fishing & Trading Company in 1837. About 1851 the fur trade in the Snake valley dropped off to a marked degree and in 1852 the Hudson Bay Company abandoned both Fort Boise and Fort Hall.

Francis Payette, who supervised the construction of Fort Boise, remained at the fort for some time after it was abandoned by the fur company. In 1853 unusually high water in the Snake partially destroyed the fort and it was never fully repaired. Two Americans, H. P. Isaac and Orlando Humason, for a time occupied the abandoned fort as a way-station on the old emigrant road. Soon after the Ward massacre in 1854 they abandoned the place and it was allowed to fall into decay.

Mr. Payette, for whom the river, lake, town and county of Payette were named, was in charge as factor at Fort Boise as long as the post was con-

ducted by the Hudson Bay Company. Payette first arrived in Oregon at the mouth of the Columbia river in 1812 with five other French-Canadian voyagers on the ship, *Beaver*, the second vessel sent out by John Jacob Astor from New York to Astoria. After the Astor interests were taken over by the Northwest Fur Company he became attached to the latter firm and when the Hudson Bay Company acquired the holdings of the Northwest Company, Payette became affiliated with the Hudson Bay Company. He was in charge of Fort Boise at the time the Presbyterian missionaries, Dr. Marcus Whitman and Rev. H. H. Spalding, accompanied by their wives, arrived there on their way to establish Indian missions. Mrs. Whitman and Mrs. Spalding were the first white women to set foot on Malheur county soil as well as the first of their sex to travel the entire distance of the Oregon Trail. Dr. Whitman left a cow, that had become footsore and unable to travel, with Mr. Payette at the fort.

Captain John Sutter was a guest of Francis Payette at Fort Boise when on his way West in 1836. Sutter went on to the Willamette valley and from there to California and established the first American settlement in that state. He built Fort Sutter on the present site of Sacramento. Gold was discovered in a mill race on Sutter's property at Coloma, California, by John Marshall in 1848, where Sutter was operating a saw-mill in the foothill region of the Sacramento valley.

Thomas F. Farnham, whose writings were instrumental in arousing interest of people in the East toward the Oregon country, arrived at Fort Boise in September, 1839, at the head of a small party of prospective Oregon settlers. In recording his travels Farnham wrote:

"Mr. Payette, the person in charge at Fort Boise, received us with every mark of kindness, gave our horses to the care of the servants, and introduced us immediately to the chairs, tables and edibles of his apartment. He is a French-Canadian; has been in the service of the Hudson Bay Company more than twenty years and holds the rank of clerk; is a very fat old fellow of fifty, who although in the wilderness all the best years of his life, has retained the benevolence in trifles, seating you at a table and serving you, or directing your attention continually to some little matter of interest, of making you speak the French language whether you are able to do so or not, so strikingly agreeable. The Fourteenth and Fifteenth were spent very pleasantly with this gentleman. During the time he feasted us with excellent bread, and butter from an American cow, obtained from some missionaries. When we departed we received a *bon jour*."

Farnham thus mentioned the Vale hot springs: "After crossing the Snake river at the fort and traveling fifteen miles we came to some boiling springs."

Lieutenant John C. Fremont, *the Pathfinder*, with his famous scout, Kit Carson, as guide, accompanied by twenty-three soldiers, crossed the Snake at Fort Boise in 1843 on his way to The Dalles, and went on to California. Fremont made mention of Francis Payette in his journal at the time.

Francis Payette's wife was also a French-Canadian. She was the daughter of Joseph Portneuf, another well-known fur trader and trapper

of that day. Mrs. Payette died in the Willamette valley about 1837, while she and her husband were there on a visit to her parents. The date and place of Francis Payette's death is not given by historians. A family named Payette is mentioned by Bancroft as being among the first settlers in the Willamette valley, which is evidently the same family. The Payettes had two children, a boy and a girl. They mingled with the Indian children at the fort and could speak both French and Indian. The boy's given name was Baptiste. When he was thirteen years old he was taken East by N. J. Wyeth to be educated. He learned to speak English while attending school. The girl married a French trapper named Pattee; the boy married an Indian girl. A daughter was born to each couple. When these two girls were about thirteen years old, accompanied by a priest, they were sent with a pack train to Fort Benton on the upper Missouri river. From there they went by boat to St. Louis to attend a Catholic school.

George Goodhart married both of Francis Payette's grand-daughters. In 1862, he married Lizzie Pattee. She was drowned while swimming her horse across the river. Some time after her death Goodhart married her cousin, Julia Payette. Both girls met tragic deaths. Julia Goodhart was killed by Bannock Indians in the vicinity of the present town of Burley, Idaho. A party of disreputable characters, including both men and women, had been driven out of a Nevada mining camp. While traveling through Idaho on their way to a Montana mining town, without provocation and only as an act of "cussedness," they killed some Bannock Indians they happened to meet. The Bannocks in turn attacked the Goodhart camp near the river, during Goodhart's absence, and killed his wife. Whether the Bannocks believed the Goodharts were members of the party that had killed their tribesmen or whether the murder of Mrs. Goodhart was an act of reprisal is not known. Both of Goodhart's wives are buried near the banks of the Snake river.

It is said that Francis Payette, the famous factor of old Fort Boise is buried on the bench south of Washoe just back of the cemetery, overlooking the river and the cities of Ontario and Payette. But the precise spot of his last resting place is not known. If the above statement is true the remains of Francis Payette rests within the county and in sight of the town and river that bears his name. The first interment made in the Washoe cemetery was about 1884. It is possible that the location of Francis Payette's grave was known at that time, and the interments that started the Washoe cemetery were made near the grave of the noted Hudson Bay factor.

A pioneer reporter for the *Boise Idaho Statesman*, writing under the heading, *Rambling Along the Boise and the Snake*, made this statement regarding the site of old Fort Boise:

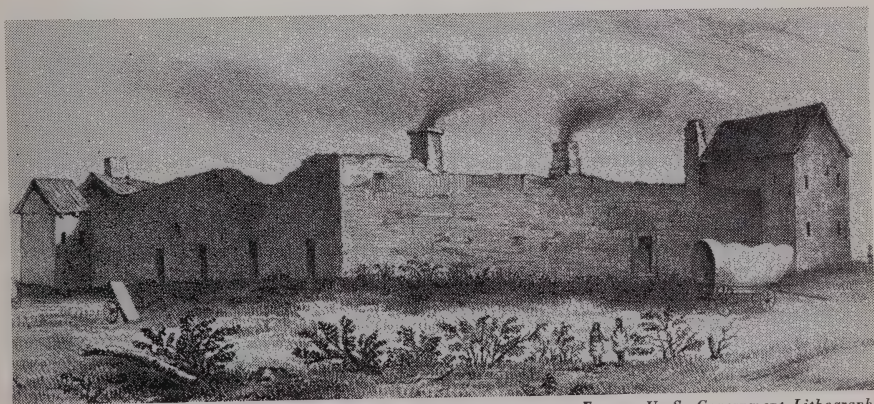
"I had not visited this spot since the time when we crossed here in 1845. The fort was a large quadrangle structure built of adobe, enclosing quite an

area, and within the thick walls were some rude dwellings and shops. Looking at the spot after a lapse of so many years, many local changes are observed. The Snake river has swallowed up several acres, including a portion of the old fort, and bringing to light some 'strange looking relics of barbarism' in the shape of tomahawks, scalping knives and ancient flintlocks. In the very early days, Captain Jonathan Keeney, the first American proprietor, who resided here for many years, made his first fence by driving willow stakes into the soft, moist soil, and 'wadling' them with smaller specimens of the same wood. The wadlings decayed, and the fence was superseded by a better structure, but the stakes were allowed to remain in their places, where they grew into long rows of beautiful shade trees, most of which now have a diameter of twelve inches, and with their tall trunks and wide reaching branches present a scene of rural beauty that would grace an English manor that counts its age by hundreds of years."

Lost river, one of the tributaries of the Snake, loses itself in the lava beds of southeastern Idaho. After flowing several miles underground it emerges in a number of places from a high bluff on the north bank of the Snake to which the name "*Thousand Springs*" has been given. In a descriptive manuscript of this particular section of the Snake river region, Frank Riblett, a former surveyor of Cassia County, Idaho, says:

"The lava presents phenomena like breathing holes, where strong currents of air find continued vent . . . Chasms going seemingly to immense depths; corrals—called devil's corrals, being enclosures of lava walls—extinct craters; the City of Rocks, a pile of basalt, which resembles a magnificent city in ruins . . . *Massacre Gate* is a tremendous basaltic barrier running from the bluffs to the Snake river, and cliffs only wide enough to permit the passage of wagons, so named from a massacre by Indians at that place; also variously styled *Gate of Death* and *Devil's Gate*."

This gorge is now called *Massacre Rocks*.



—From a U. S. Government Lithograph.

Exterior Court of Old Fort Hall

The original Fort Hall was situated near the mouth of Portneuf river on the Snake, a short distance from the present town of Pocatello, Idaho. Like the original Fort Boise it was built by firmly setting cottonwood logs in the ground and securely fastening them near the top. The enclosure was eighty feet square and the palisade was fifteen feet high. Two bastions

built at diagonal corners guarded against all approaches to the fort. N. J. Wyeth, the American builder, named the fort for the oldest member of his company, Henry Hall. After the British company acquired the property the fort was rebuilt of adobe, and the enclosure was enlarged to one hundred feet square.

Old Fort Hall was located on low ground some miles southwest of the present Fort Hall. The original fort was twice submerged by high waters, once in 1862 and again in 1864. As a result the adobe walls crumbled and the fort was considerably damaged and later destroyed by fire. Like old Fort Boise, old Fort Hall is a thing of the past and the ground where it once stood is now submerged by the American Falls irrigation reservoir.

There are four large waterfalls on the Snake river between the outlets of the Portneuf and the Bruneau rivers, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles. The first is American Falls, twenty-five miles below old Fort Hall, where the river takes a plunge downward about sixty feet over lava rocks. These falls attained their name when a party of Americans lost their lives there while attempting to navigate the river.

Below American Falls the river flows through a steep rugged canyon of lava rock, 800 to 1,000 feet wide, for a distance of about seventy miles. Emerging from the canyon there the stream is divided by a high pinnacle, standing near the center. The main channel drops 150 feet downward over a precipice. The water in the smaller channel descends by a series of falls and rapids. This is Twin Falls, sometimes called the Little Falls, to distinguish it from the great Shoshone Falls, only four miles below, where just below the river a thirty-foot rapid plunges over a 210-foot precipice. Forty miles further down stream Salmon Falls makes a plunge of 40 feet.

At American Falls the altitude is 4,240 feet above sea level. Two hundred and fifty miles down stream, at the mouth of the Owyhee the altitude is 2,180 feet, making a general descent in 250 miles of over 2,000 feet. The elevation at Ontario, sixteen miles below the mouth of the Owyhee, is 2,157. Payette, four miles beyond, 2,150. Weiser 2,123, Huntington, 2,110. The rapid descent of the winding Snake from American Falls, with its many water falls and rapids, to the Owyhee is sufficient evidence why this large river is unnavigable above the mouth of the Bruneau. From Ontario to Huntington, a distance of 40 miles, the change in elevation is only 47 feet. In the lower part of the Snake basin the river is navigable between Olds ferry and the mouth of the Bruneau river.

Near Huntington, Oregon, the "Raging Snake" enters a grand canyon, as it continues its winding way in wild, successive rapids, dashing again and again over numerous projecting rocks. The Grand Canyon of the Snake river is said to be the world's deepest gorge, descending in places from 6,000 to 7,000 feet; exceeding in depth the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. For more than one hundred miles this deep gorge forms the

boundary line between Oregon and Idaho where it has cut its way between the Seven Devils Mountains of Idaho and the Blue Mountains of Oregon. Very few have navigated or attempted to navigate this deep, dangerous wonderland canyon. The Snake river forms the eastern boundary of Oregon from a few miles south of the mouth of the Owyhee river to the northeast corner of the state, over one hundred and fifty miles.

The name Idaho is from the Nez Perce Indian language, signifying *Gem of the Mountains*, or more properly, *Diadem of the Mountains*.

The Weiser river was named for a prominent mining man who mined on the Salmon river in the early Sixties and was the first miner to prospect for gold on the headwaters of the Weiser.

Burnt river was named by trappers and members of the first emigrant wagon train that passed through the valley in 1843, when its way was blocked by fallen timber and brush burned by forest fires. The emigrants told of having to cut and clear away the fallen trees and limbs before they could get their wagons through the canyon when traveling up the bed of the stream. Peter Skeen Ogden is credited with having named the stream.

Some of the first travelers mentioned a huge pine tree in the Powder river valley. As later emigrants said nothing of this tree, it may have been destroyed by forest fires or cut down for fuel by some of the earlier emigrants. Powder river was named by the emigrants because the light soil in that locality was stirred into a powder-like dust by their live stock and wagons.

The Grande Ronde valley and river were named by the early French trappers. The river was called *Fouche de Glace* or ice river by Captain Bonneville.

Baker county, of which Malheur county was at one time a part, was carved from the southeastern portion of Wasco county in 1862. Baker county was named for Colonel E. D. Baker, a United States Senator from Oregon, who had recently been killed in the Civil War battle of Ball's Bluff, Virginia. At the outbreak of the war Baker was commissioned a colonel in the Union army and was to head a regiment of cavalry to be organized in Oregon and which was to join him on the Potomac. Before his regiment could be organized he was killed in action.

Six Oregon counties—Washington, Jefferson, Polk, Lincoln and Grant, were named for former presidents of the United States. Three other counties—Sherman, Harney, and Crook, were named for military heroes. Lane county was named for General Joseph Lane, a soldier of the Mexican war and first territorial governor of Oregon. Benton and Linn counties were named for two United States Senators from Missouri—Thomas H. Benton and Lewis F. Linn, both of whom were very instrumental in securing the establishment of the Oregon territory.

The Seven Devils Mountains of Idaho derive their names from seven

high peaks. The Blue Mountains in Oregon are separated from the Seven Devils by the Snake river gorge. Like the Blue Ridge Mountains of Maryland and Virginia, the Blue Mountains of Oregon attained their name from the foliage of the pine and fir trees that adorn their sides and crests.

CHAPTER 3

THE OVERLAND IMMIGRATION

*Far to the West there lies a desert land, where the mountains
Lift, through perpetual snow, their lofty and luminous summits,
Down from their ragged, deep ravines, where the gorge, like a gateway,
Opens a passage rude to the wheels of the emigrant wagon,
Westward the Oregon flows, and the Walleway and Owyhee.*

—From Longfellow's "Evangeline."

The first wagon train to cross the plains on the way to Oregon, carrying about 135 emigrants, started from Independence, Missouri, in the spring of 1842. When the train arrived at Green river, on advice of fur traders, the emigrants abandoned their wagons and continued on horseback.

The first wagon train to travel the Oregon Trail the entire distance, numbering about 1,000 emigrants, left Independence the next year, 1843. Commenting on this wagon train, Horace Greeley, in his *New York Tribune* of July 2, 1843, tersely commented:

"For what do they brave the desert, the wilderness, the savages, the storm drenched bivouac and the gnawing of famine? This migration of more than one thousand persons in one body to Oregon bears an aspect of mass insanity."

The immigration of 1844, traveling in three different wagon trains is estimated to have numbered about 1,500 persons. The immigration of 1845, which came in four different wagon trains, has been estimated at about the same number who came overland to Oregon the year before.

One of the emigrant trains of 1845, led by Captain Hancock, was met by Dr. Elijah White near Fort Boise. It has been said White induced the emigrants to leave the established trail and follow an abandoned Indian trail up the Malheur river where the train became lost. At the time of the meeting, Dr. White was Indian agent for Oregon and was on his way to Washington, D. C., on official business. He was accompanied by a small party of horsemen. Commenting on this incident H. H. Bancroft, the historian, made this comment:

"There can be but little doubt of his having induced about two hundred of these families to leave the established road down the Snake river, taking instead an abandoned trail up the Malheur. His idea probably was that they would be almost certain to find a pass through the Cascades and eventually the credit of having made a most important discovery would be given to him."

Hiatt, in his *Thirty-One Years in Baker County*, says:

"It cannot be reasonably supposed that he would have urged a company of emigrants to try a new and unknown route if he had anticipated the suffering that they were doomed to endure. Doubtless he had perfect faith in the feasibility of the enterprise, for at that time there was nothing known of the character of the country lying between the Snake river and the Cascade mountains, and it would be reasonable to suppose that the Malheur and Burnt rivers had their sources in the Cascade Mountains, and judging from the size of these streams the distance to the summit could not be so very great. The existence of the lake basin and desert plain between the heads of these two streams and the Cascade mountains was not then known. But whatever may have been White's motive and whether or not he did induce a company to leave the emigrant road and follow a trail up the Malheur river, certain it is that they did try the route with Stephen H. L. Meek as guide."

Shortly before leaving for the East Dr. White had led an exploring party looking for a pass through the Cascades which he failed to find.

Twenty of the emigrants died while they were lost on the desert and about as many more died after arriving at The Dalles from privations endured on the desert.

In 1846, because of difficulties encountered by emigrant wagons between The Dalles and the Willamette, Jesse Applegate headed a party that located a new road between Fort Hall and the Willamette River headwaters by way of the Klamath valley. Applegate led the "cow column" in the large wagon train of 1843. A train of about ninety wagons, guided by an Applegate man, came over the new southern route, as it was called, in 1846.

Between four and five thousand emigrants came overland to Oregon in 1847. This was the largest immigration to arrive in any one year up to that time. Oregonians had complained the previous year that California agents had met Oregon bound immigration at Fort Hall and induced some of it to go to California. Now, Californians were registering a similar complaint, alleging Oregon agents sent to Fort Hall, were luring California-bound emigrants to Oregon. The Wiggins party of forty-seven wagons, on the way to California, came to Oregon in 1847 traveling the southern, or Applegate, route. Almost all of the Oregon immigration of 1847 came by the Snake river and Columbia basin route.

In 1852 a second attempt was made to locate a road between Fort Boise and the Willamette valley over the Cascade mountains that would avoid the trouble and delay of the last ninety miles between The Dalles and the valley. The Oregon legislature appropriated \$3,000 for the enterprise and seven men, headed by William Macey, undertook to locate the new route. Crossing over a pass they named Diamond Peak for John Diamond, a member of the party, they descended the eastern slope to the Malheur river. While on their way they were attacked by Indians who robbed them of all their equip-

ment and wounded three members of the party. After this they wandered around for eight days, subsisting on wild berries, until they reached the Oregon Trail near the present site of Vale. From there the party followed the emigrant road back to the Willamette valley.

In 1853 another party was sent out to improve the trail made by the Macey party. About fifteen hundred emigrants attempted to travel this trail that year but, as it was poorly defined, they became lost. Like the lost emigrant train of 1845 they wandered for five weeks through mountains, deserts and marshes in the vicinity of the headwaters of Deschutes river. None of the emigrants lost their lives but they had to abandon thousands of dollars worth of property.

General W. S. Harney was placed in command of the Department of Oregon in 1858 and established headquarters at Fort Vancouver on October 29. Two days later he opened the Walla Walla valley to settlement. All of the Columbia basin above The Dalles had been closed since 1855 by order of General Wool, a former commander. Following General Harney's order about 2,000 settlers took claims in the Walla Walla and Umatilla valleys. The Oregon legislature passed a resolution commending General Harney and asked that protection be extended to overland immigration by establishing a garrison at Fort Boise. General Harney at once took steps to establish military roads. In April, 1859, he dispatched Captain D. H. Wallen with two companies of dragoons and mounted infantry to lay out a road from The Dalles to Salt Lake City, to connect with the emigrant road through South Pass. Captain Waller was to ascertain if a road could be constructed up the John Day river over to the headwaters of the Malheur and down that stream to the Snake. Captain Waller detached Lieutenant Bonnycastle with part of the command south of the route the troops were traveling. Bonnycastle entered Harney valley and it is generally believed that he gave Harney valley and Harney lake their names in honor of his department commander, General W. S. Harney. Bonnycastle turned north to the John Day river and followed the stream back to The Dalles.

Due to the diligence of Captain Waller in guarding the emigrant road only one train was attacked by Indians. Against the advice of Captain Waller the emigrants turned off the main road and went up the Malheur. One emigrant was severely wounded and the train turned back after abandoning four of its wagons.

In 1858 F. W. Lander improved the Oregon Trail from South Pass to the points where the Oregon and California routes parted in the upper Snake river valley. This improvement, known as "Lander's Cut Off," enabled emigrants to arrive in Willamette valley weeks earlier than in previous years. This year about 800 emigrants settled in the Walla Walla valley; some located in Grande Ronde valley and others south of the Columbia. This was the first year emigrants settled in Grande Ronde.

In the spring of 1860 General Harney ordered two military expeditions into eastern Oregon to continue explorations for a military road between Harney Lake and Willamette valley by way of the emigrant road opened by authority of the Oregon legislature in 1853. While the expeditions were out General Harney was called to Washington, leaving Colonel George Wright in command of the Oregon department. The two expeditions were under command of Major E. Steen and Captain A. J. Smith. Smith's command was about twenty miles up the Owyhee when it was attacked by a superior force of Indians and retreated to Harney valley. Steen moved into Harney valley and joined forces with Smith. Informed of the Indians' interference with the two exploring expeditions Colonel Wright sent three companies of artillery under Major George P. Andrews to assist. A company of dragoons under Major Grier was sent over the emigrant road toward Fort Boise to protect wagon trains and keep in commanding distance of Major Steen, who was supposed to reach the emigrant road in a few days. On August 4, after being reinforced by the artillery companies, Major Steen, with a hundred dragoons and sixty artillerymen marched toward a range of snow covered mountains where Indians were reported to be hiding. Major Andrews proceeded east and camped with the rest of the command near the Owyhee.

Major Steen's object was to drive the Indians either toward Major Grier's troops on the emigrant road or toward Major Andrews' force on the Owyhee. On the fourth day's march, Steen's scouts reported Indians on the north slope of a high mountain peak. On the morning of August 8th the troops surprised a small party of Indians which fled toward the top of the mountain. Major Steen, with his entire force, including artillery, followed the savages to the top of the peak and 6,000 feet down the south side through a rough dangerous canyon, with only the loss of a mule. Since then the high peak has been called Steen's mountain in commemoration of this military exploit. Three Indian warriors, a few Indian women and children were captured, but the main body scattered and made their escape. In September, the troops returned to The Dalles and were assigned to winter quarters.

Shortly after the troops returned to the Columbia, on September 13, 1860, occurred the second massacre in the Snake river valley between Salmon Falls and Fort Boise, since called *The Sinker Creek Tragedy*. The Oregon legislature—in session at the time—adopted a memorial, which was sent to Congress, urging that military posts be established to guard the emigrant road. A request was made for two temporary posts, one in Grande Ronde valley and the other on Burnt river, each to be garrisoned by 25 soldiers. Three permanent posts were asked for, each to be garrisoned by a full company. One to be established at Fort Boise; another near American Falls, and a third at Fort Hall. A memorial was also sent to the Secretary of War requesting that a military road be built from Fort Boise to Eugene and that three military posts be established in Eastern Oregon. The first to

to be a four-company post at Fort Boise; the second, a two-company post, on the Malheur river to patrol the proposed new road between Fort Boise and Eugene; the third post to be located between Fort Boise and Fort Walla Walla to guard the old emigrant road.

At the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, Colonel Wright was transferred to Southern California to command troops in suppressing rebellion there and was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. General Alvord came to Fort Vancouver to take command of the Oregon District. A number of white desperadoes, some of whom were fugitives from the East, flocked into the new country in the early Sixties and Indians became more troublesome. Following the Snake river massacre of 1860 wagon trains were met by troops along the trail and escorted through the dangerous Indian country.

In the summer of 1863 Major Pickney Lugenbeel was sent with two companies of U. S. Cavalry to establish a military post in the vicinity of Fort Boise. On June 10, he left Fort Walla Walla over the old emigrant road and arrived with his command near the present site of the city of Boise, June 28, 1863. On July 6th, he selected the site for the Boise Barracks, which was built of native stone. The next year, 1864, Major J. S. Rinerson was assigned one company of soldiers to complete the post, which was the beginning of the city of Boise, Idaho.

The first expedition of troops into Eastern Oregon, numbering only twenty-six men, left The Dalles March 1, traveling over the John Day route. On March 17, the expedition encountered a band of Indian horse thieves on the South Fork of the John Day river, which it pursued into Harney valley, where it met forty miners under the leadership of Joaquin Miller, who were in pursuit of the same Indians. The two forces united and pursued the thieves for three days when they came upon about 200 Indians and engaged in battle. A few Indians were killed but none of the live stock was recovered.

At the beginning of the Civil War, C. H. (Joaquin) Miller was editing the *Democrat-Register* at Eugene, Oregon. By order of Colonel George Wright the paper was suppressed for promulgating disloyalty to the Federal Government. In 1862, Miller joined the gold rush into Eastern Oregon and for some years resided at Canyon City. Later he went to California where he became famous as a poet, novelist and playwright, and gained the sobriquet of *The Poet of the Sierras*.

About six weeks after Lieutenant Waymire's expedition explored Harney valley, a larger force, consisting of three companies, left The Dalles on April 20. It was joined at the Warm Springs reservation by twenty-five Indian scouts under Donald McKay, son of the noted Thomas McKay, and a fourth company of troops under Captain Small. On May 17, the troops camped near the headwaters of the Deschutes river. Lieutenants McCall and Wat-

son, with thirty-five men, accompanied by McKay and some of his scouts, made a night march to surprise some Indians with a dawn attack. While leading his men Lieutenant Watson was shot through the heart, two of his men were killed and five more were wounded.

On June 7, the entire command arrived in Harney valley and two weeks later formed a junction with two more companies of troops and ten Cayuse Indian scouts under command of Lieutenant Maury near Fort Boise. Maury's troops had left Walla Walla, April 28, marching over the old emigrant road to near the mouth of the Owyhee river where they had been joined by Captain Berry with twenty-five Washington volunteers. The command went eight miles up the Owyhee and established a supply depot with Captain Barry in command. The cavalry moved up the river to a stream formed by the junction of Sucker and Jordan creeks, to which they gave the name Martin, near where the newly built road from California to the Owyhee mines crossed the Owyhee river. Here the Owyhee ferry was established, 180 miles from Lassen Meadows on the Humboldt river and sixty-five from the Idaho mines on the upper Owyhee river.

On May 25 Captain Curry moved his cavalry from the Owyhee ferry eight miles west to a small tributary which he named Gibbs creek for Oregon's governor of that time. Here he built a stone bridge and fort that he named Camp Henderson in honor of Oregon's congressman of that day. Captain Rinehart was ordered to bring supplies from Captain Barry's camp to Camp Henderson. Rinehart Springs, near the Owyhee, was named for Captain Rinehart who had camped there. Finding no hostile Indians in the vicinity, Captain Curry made explorations further west and discovered a large valley at the base of Steen's mountain, which he named Alvord valley in honor of General Alvord, who was in command of the Oregon District.

Captain Curry moved his base from Camp Henderson to Alvord valley and established a new base which he named Camp Alvord. On June 22 Captain Curry with his cavalry, left to unite his force with Captain Drake near Harney lake, leaving Captain Barry at the Alvord base with the infantry and disabled cavalry horses. The commands of Curry and Drake united on Rattle Snake creek, where they were joined by Lieutenant Noble with forty Indian scouts, thus increasing the force in the field to about 400 men. Curry and Drake worked in conjunction, sending out scouting parties north and west to the headwaters of the John Day and Crooked rivers, and as far south as the emigrant road from California. Miners and emigrants sometimes met with loss of life and property on this road, but the soldiers seldom encountered savages and not more than a dozen Indians were killed during the whole time troops were operating in the locality from April until August, 1864.

In September the Oregon volunteer cavalry returned to Camp Alvord and on the 26th left for Fort Walla Walla for the Winter. They went down

the Malheur river to the emigrant road which they followed to the Columbia basin. The infantry and baggage wagons were sent to Boise Barracks.

With a growing population, Indian troubles increased. In the early spring of 1865, because of frequent Indian attacks, troops were again dispatched to Eastern Oregon and Idaho, to protect the emigrant roads. One hundred soldiers sent in April to guard the road between The Dalles and Fort Boise, a distance of 450 miles, found that distance was more than they could patrol. Travelers along the road between Salt Lake and Boise, as well as the road between California and the Owyhee mines were frequently attacked by Indians. In May a detachment of Oregon volunteer cavalry under Captains Charles Hobart and James L. Curry were ordered to clear the road between The Dalles and Canyon City and on to Fort Boise. Major Drake ordered Captain Curry to the Snake river to escort stage coaches carrying mail and express after Indians had driven off the stock from several stage stations.

Because of increased Indian depredations a number of military posts were established in Eastern Oregon in 1865. Captain Hobart was sent to Jordan valley where he established a post, named Camp Lyon, in memory of a Civil War hero, General Lyon, killed at the battle of Wilson Creek in southwest Missouri in 1863. Soon after completing the post, soldiers went in pursuit of Indians that had driven off stock on Reynolds creek. Hobart's men were attacked while in camp on the Malheur river and some of their stock stampeded. After a four-hour battle all the stock was recovered and some of the Indians' horses were captured. Two soldiers were wounded and several Indians were killed or wounded.

Camp Three Forks was built at the convergence of the three forks of the Owyhee river, which, like Camp Lyon, was built to guard the road from California to the Idaho mines. During the '60's Bannock and Piute Indians continuously terrorized settlers in the Jordan valley. For several years Government troops were garrisoned at Camp Three Forks, Camp Lyon, Fort Dobie on the Ruby ranch and at Sheep ranch.

With the opening of the Owyhee mines many miners came from California over two newly established roads known as the Chico and Humboldt routes. The migration greatly increased in 1865. In April of that year Hill Beachy established a freight line from California by way of Star City, Nevada, to the Idaho mines, a distance of 260 miles. After several trips the line was discontinued owing to prowling Indians stealing sixty head of Beachy's horses. The Humboldt express route was also discontinued when one of the company's stations was burned and the keeper killed within about forty miles of Owyhee. In April a saddle-train was attacked by Indians on Jordan creek and some of the animals captured.

Camp Watson, sixty miles west of Canyon City; Camp Logan, about ten miles east of Canyon City, and Camp Colfax, in the vicinity of Mormon

basin, were built in 1865 to guard the road between The Dalles, Canyon City and Fort Boise. Camp Watson was named for the army officer who had been killed near its site. That year Indians attacked a train of freight wagons near Farewell Bend on the Snake and drove off 12 mules.

Captain Charles McDermitt, with a detachment of the Second California volunteer cavalry, established Camp Bidwell near Goose lake, on the California-Idaho road. The road had recently been closed because of hostile Indians who had become better equipped with fire arms and were causing much trouble. A new military district was organized under command of Captain McDermitt, comprising Nevada and the Owens river valley in California. August 11, 1865, Captain McDermitt was ambushed and killed by Indians on the Quinn river as he was returning from a scouting expedition. McDermitt, Nevada, later located near where he was killed, was named for this army officer. In September, 1865, ten companies of soldiers were deployed along the road to protect travel to the Idaho mines.

Lieutenant C. H. Walker, with twenty-two men of the Oregon volunteers, was sent to guard Gibson Ferry on the Snake, above Fort Hall, where emigrants were crossing from the Oregon Trail on their way to the Idaho and Montana mines. They remained there until September 19, when Walker was ordered to Fort Hall to prepare winter quarters for Captain Palmer's troops. Upon arrival they found the old fort had been destroyed by fire. From abandoned stage buildings at the junction of the Salt Lake, Virginia City and Boise stage lines a shelter for troops was made, which was called Fort Lander, in honor of the builder of the "Lander Cutoff." Lieutenant Walker was a son of Rev. E. Walker, an early day Presbyterian missionary among the Indians.

The first U. S. troops from the East arrived at Boise Barracks the latter part of October, 1865, composing two companies of the 14th U. S. infantry under command of Captain Walker, a regular army officer. Following their arrival all the Oregon volunteers were sent to Fort Vancouver and mustered out of service.

About the middle of February, 1866, Captain Walker, with thirty-nine men went from Fort Boise to the mouth of the Owyhee river to apprehend a band of Indians that had stolen considerable property. The troops encountered the Indians in a canyon between the Owyhee and Malheur. The Indians put up a fierce fight in which all but three of them were killed. When night came on, the three escaped in the darkness. Only one soldier was killed and another wounded. The stolen property was recovered.

H. H. Wheeler, for whom Wheeler County was named, had contracts with the Wells-Fargo Express Company to carry express and with the Government to transport mail between The Dalles and Canyon City. His four-horse stage coaches were capable of carrying eleven passengers. The pas-

senger fare between The Dalles and Canyon City was \$40. A Wells-Fargo messenger guarded the express box.

In 1876, as Wheeler and the express messenger, H. C. Paige, were traveling alone, the stage was attacked by Indians, some of whom were armed with guns. On command, Wheeler stopped the stage. Paige fired on the attackers but none of his shots took effect. A shot from an Indian's rifle hit Wheeler in the face, shattering a jaw bone. Both men leaped from the stage, unhitched the two lead horses, mounted and fled toward a stage station about six miles away. Paige was thrown from his horse. From a prone position on the ground he engaged in a gun fight while Wheeler caught the unmounted horse, Paige remounted and the white men fled. The Indians returned to the stage, broke open the express box, cut open the mail pouches and tore the top off the stage coach. Never having seen paper money the thieves left about \$10,000 in greenbacks, which Paige recovered two hours later when he returned to the scene of the robbery. Two days later Wheeler went to The Dalles to have his wound treated. During the four years Wheeler operated his stage line he had a total of eighty-nine horses stolen.

CHAPTER 4

GUARDING THE TRAIL

*"O'er mountain crest, through vale and rugged glen,
Where roam savage beasts, and rove more savage men."*

On February 24, 1866, Major General Steele took command of the Department of the Columbia. On March 2, Fort Boise, Camps Lyon, Alvord, Reed and Lander were formed into a military district under command of Major H. L. Marshall, who arrived at Fort Boise about March 20. Three companies of troops were garrisoned at Camp Lyon. One of the three companies, under command of Captain James C. Hunt, came from California over the Humboldt route. Another company came from the 14th Infantry at Fort Boise under command of Captain P. Collins. Captain Sprague's Oregon volunteers made up the third company. Colonel E. M. Baker, in command at The Dalles, assigned two companies of cavalry to guard the road between The Dalles and Fort Boise. Robberies had been occurring so frequently between these two points that the express company refused to

carry valuable express over the road. Half a dozen stage robberies had occurred along this route before the first of May.

The ranch of Andrew Hall, fifteen miles from Ruby City, had been attacked by Indians February 15, who burned the buildings, killed Hall and drove off fifty head of horses. On May 4, sixty animals were stolen at night from a pack train on Reynolds creek. The loss was estimated at \$10,000. About two weeks later Baird and Miller, while on their way from California with 640 head of beef cattle, had 421 head driven off.

On May 11, Major Marshall left Fort Boise with eighty-four men to scout on the headwaters of the Owyhee. He found a large force of Indians entrenched in the lava rocks between the middle and south forks. In a four-hour battle seven Indians were killed and a large number wounded. One non-commissioned officer was killed which was the only loss suffered by the troopers. The Indians being strongly entrenched, Marshall gave up the siege. Indian depredations from then on greatly increased. The military forces appeared unable to cope with the savages.

Following the repeal of an Idaho law that prohibited Chinese from mining in the territory many Chinese flocked to the Idaho fields. On May 19 about fifty of them, while on their way to the newly discovered mines at Silver City, were attacked by Piute Indians under Chief E'Gantz, on Jordan creek, near the Oregon state line. This wily chief, through a promise of mercy, secured the Chinamen's arms and then treacherously killed all but one of them. However, this young man, who had been wounded and left for dead, escaped and told of the massacre. Troops hurried to the scene, where they found bodies of dead Chinese strewn along the road for six miles. The soldiers collected the bodies together and buried them all in a common grave. Years later Chief E'Gantz admitted that he was the leader of the Piutes that perpetrated the bloody massacre.

In June, Indians raided ranches on Elk creek in Baker county and drove off a number of horses and mules. A party of twelve ranchers organized and went in pursuit of the thieves. They followed the trail to Powder river, from there to Burnt river and over the divide to Willow creek valley. From there half of the party turned back while the other six continued the chase, gaining on the thieves, until they came to a basin on the south fork of the Malheur river. In this valley they found six Indian tepees and prepared to attack when they discovered a larger number of the wigwams and decided to return to Powder river for reinforcements. A party of about fifty men was organized, with Hardin Estes as captain, and went to the Malheur. At Auburn, a stranger claiming to be from Canyon City, volunteered to join them. On Burnt river he left them with a promise to return soon but was never heard of again. When the party arrived on the Malheur where the Indians had been camped they found camp had been hastily broken. They became convinced that the man who had unexpectedly

joined them and shortly thereafter as mysteriously disappeared was a spy for the Indians and had hastened on ahead to warn the redskins. On another branch of the Malheur the volunteers sighted another camp, which they mistook to be Indians, but was discovered to be a company of soldiers in pursuit of the same Indians. The two parties united and continued the pursuit. The next day they encountered the Indians and in the battle Corporal William B. Lord, a Civil War veteran, was killed. Soon after this engagement all but four of the volunteers returned home. These four men remained with the soldiers for five weeks before giving up the chase and returning home without recovering their stock.

In June, Indians attacked settlers in the vicinity of Weiser and a pack train near there. On June 12 Indians killed a farmer, C. C. Gassett, near Ruby City and drove off 100 head of stock. June 20 twenty head of stock was stolen from the War Eagle mine. Early in July, James Perry and a man named Green were killed. Their arms were chopped off and the bodies were pinned to the ground by the savages. A mining camp near Canyon City was attacked by Indians in which Mathew Williams was killed and D. Graham was severely wounded. About the same time Samuel Leonard was murdered by Indians in Mormon basin.

Reports were current that white renegades were aiding the Indians in committing depredations. When Lieutenant Beirn's troops, on July 19, had a skirmish with Indians on the headwaters of the Malheur, English-speaking voices in the Indian camp were distinctly heard. In September horses were stolen from a farm on the Burnt river and also at a ferry on the Snake river near the mouth of Powder river. The Silver City stage was attacked on the Owyhee and two men were shot.

The Owyhee stage was attacked on November 8 within four miles of the Snake river. A passenger named Wilcox was killed and another passenger, Harrington, and the driver, Waltermire, were wounded. The driver urged his team on for four miles. In the running fight the driver and passengers exchanged shots with the Indians. After the two wheel-horses were shot the driver and passengers abandoned the stage to seek safety in the brush. Returning to the stage after the Indians had left, they found Wilcox scalped and his body otherwise mutilated. The mail bags had been torn open and their contents scattered around.

In December, twenty savages attacked Cow Creek Ranch in Jordan valley. Barricading themselves in the barn, the Indians riddled the farm-house with bullets, running off the occupants after which they drove off all the cattle and horses. A force of men pursued the savages and recovered all of the stock.

The Oregon volunteer cavalry had spent most of the past four years tracking down the hostile Indians and learning their hideouts on the Eastern Oregon and Idaho frontier. In the autumn of 1866 General George Crook,

the noted Indian fighter—at that time a lieutenant-colonel—was sent from California to relieve Major Marshall in command of the Boise district. He was a man of determination and energy and in a brief time subdued the hostile tribes in Oregon and Idaho.

By the middle of December Colonel Crook, with forty soldiers and a dozen Indian scouts of the Warm Springs tribe, took the field. They engaged about eighty hostiles in battle for several hours on the Owyhee, killing some thirty savages with the loss of only one man, Sergeant O'Toole, a veteran of twenty-eight battles in the Civil War. When the Indians retreated they left some of the squaws and children behind and about thirty head of Indian horses were rounded up by the soldiers.

About this time thirty-four horses were stolen by Indians in the Boise valley and taken across the Snake river near the Riverside ferry. They swam the animals across, following them on tule rafts. Later a man named Clark was shot near the ferry while camped with other freighters.

During 1866 and 1867 troops were stationed at the two large stock farms in Jordan valley—Ruby ranch and Sheep ranch. An adobe fortification was constructed at Ruby ranch that became known as Fort Dobie. Sheep ranch had become a stage station on the Boise, Silver City and Winnemucca Stage Line. For several months troops under Colonel Koppinger were stationed at Sheep ranch. Koppinger was a son-in-law of the noted Maine statesman, James G. Blaine. A howitzer and a large stock of fire arms were stored there, and a station on a telegraph line between Boise and Winnemucca was maintained at the ranch. Ernest L. Merrill, 13-year-old son of J. P. Merrill, one of the owners of Sheep ranch, was pressed into service as a telegraph operator. He had studied telegraphy in California. Young Merrill was a brother of Mrs. Rosa Fletcher, wife of T. C. Fletcher. The Fletchers were residing in Jordan valley. Later they located on the lower Owyhee and came from there to Ontario.

In 1866-67 Indians became quite troublesome along the trail between the John Day and Snake rivers. For two months, during the summer of 1867, a company of cavalry under Captain Wildy was stationed at Camp Colfax on upper Willow creek to protect settlers and to guard the road between Canyon City and Boise. In September the command was ordered to Camp Crook in California. Following this move citizens petitioned Governor Woods, urging the establishment of a permanent post on Willow creek, but the plea was of no avail.

On October 3 the home of a man named Howe was plundered near Camp Colfax while the family was away. Seven men, led by Lieutenant Pike, went in pursuit of the invaders. He surprised and routed the Indians, who fled from the camp. Pike picked up an abandoned rifle by the muzzle and struck it over a rock. The gun exploded, fatally wounding the officer.

A teamster named Adams was killed and another teamster, McCoy, was

severely wounded in November, near the Owyhee ferry while hauling supplies to the mines. In a night attack the Indians fired on the ferry-house and a detachment of troops camped nearby but caused no casualties.

In January, 1867, General Crook's troops encountered a large band of Indians about 15 miles west of the Owyhee ferry on the California road. Captain W. C. McKay, with his Indian scouts, had discovered the hostiles' camp. In the battle sixty of the savages were killed and thirty taken prisoner. A civilian named Hanson was killed and three soldiers wounded. A smaller band of Indians was later encountered in which five were killed and the rest captured. Among the prisoners one Indian was recognized who had previously been captured and later released upon his promise not to engage in future warfare. He was shot for violating his parole.

Crook's command marched from the Owyhee to the vicinity of Malheur lake. In January, McKay's scouts attacked a hostile camp, killing three Indians and captured some of their ammunition and horses. McKay discovered the hideout of the noted Shoshone Chief Paniana whose warriors had fortified themselves on a high rugged mountain. With his scouts he climbed the rocky heights and engaged them in a day-long battle. Three Shoshones were killed, one scout and several horses were wounded. That night McKay discovered another Indian camp which he attacked, killing twelve of the hostiles and capturing some prisoners. Since the battle was being fought in about eighteen inches of snow, McKay abandoned the pursuit after his horses became exhausted.

Captain William C. McKay was a son of Thomas McKay, the famous part-Indian fur trader of the Hudson Bay Company, who later became an American citizen and took a leading part in moulding early Oregon history. He was a step-son of Dr. McLoughlin, who has been called *The Father of Oregon*. William C. McKay went to Boston where he graduated from medical college, returned to Oregon and for years was a leading physician in Pendleton. He is acknowledged as the most famous pioneer citizen of Indian blood in Oregon.

Early in March a detachment of Crook's troops marched to the John Day road, in the vicinity of Canyon City, trailing savages. Aided by McKay's scouts, they killed twenty-four hostiles, captured some prisoners and destroyed much Indian property.

In July General Crook scouted between Camp C. F. Smith and Camp Harney with a detachment from three companies of cavalry and two companies of Indian scouts. The detachment traveled by night and kept concealed in daytime. The scouts attacked hostile Indians in a canyon in the Pueblo mountains, surrounded them and soon returned with thirty scalps attached to their belts.

While U. S. troops were engaged in Indian campaigns in the interior a number of crimes were committed by savages in the vicinity of the Snake

river valley. On March 25, 1867, the Boise-Owyhee stage was ambushed by eight Indians. William Younger, the driver was mortally wounded, and James Uhlman, a passenger and prominent businessman of Boise, who attempted to escape, was overtaken and murdered. The mail was destroyed.

On April 25, eight Indians raided a farm on the John Day road and drove off twenty-five cattle and two horses. They burned the house and barn of J. N. Clark on the Burnt river. Clark, Howard Maupin and William Reagan pursued the marauders and came upon them feasting on an ox they had stolen. Clark killed the leader of the band, who proved to be the noted Shoshone Indian chief, Paniana. Three other Indians were killed and the stock recovered.

August 16, 1867, on orders issued from the Department of the Pacific, the Boise district was restricted to Fort Boise. Camp Lyon, Camp Three Forks and Camp C. F. Smith, constituted the district of the Owyhee; Fort Harney, Camp Logan and Camp Watson comprised the Lake district, under command of General Crook, who was also in command of Camp Bidwell, California.

While J. B. Scott and family were returning early in the morning of September 28 to their home on Burnt river from a dance in Rye valley, they were attacked by Indians led by the notorious Big Foot. Scott, driving a wagon, was shot and mortally wounded. As he fell back into the wagon, Mrs. Scott, who had also been mortally wounded, grabbed the lines and managed to guide the runaway team down the rough, winding road, along the river. One of the savages, presumably Big Foot, grabbed hold of the rear end-gate of the wagon and held on for some distance. Mrs. Scott brought the team to a halt at the farmyard gate without further casualties. Scott died soon after they arrived home. Mrs. Scott survived him by only a few hours. William Packwood, Sr., who was running Olds ferry, and his wife had been invited by the Scotts to accompany them to the dance, but were unable to accept because of urgent business, which probably saved them from a tragic fate.

Shortly after this Indian outrage a man named Folger, while on his way from Mormon basin to Olds ferry, was ambushed when within about five miles of the ferry. He was wounded twice, in the hip and thigh bone. His horse ran for three miles down Birch creek and he escaped the Indians. After getting his horse stopped he dismounted and crawled to the creek for water. Being unable to remount, he had to remain the rest of the day and night. The next morning, after several attempts, he managed to mount and make the two-mile ride to the ferry, where he was cared for by Mr. and Mrs. Packwood until he died about a week later.

On the night of October 3, Joseph T. Caldwell, a prominent citizen, was killed, scalped and his body burned within half a mile of Owyhee City. The next night Indians raided a cattle ranch in Jordan valley within three

miles of Silver City. During the autumn a number of Indian raids occurred in the Boise valley in which live stock was stolen. Farmers organized and aided by soldiers from Fort Boise recovered some of the stock and killed two Indians. One of the dead savages had been branded with a circle and the figures, 1845, indicating he had been captured and punished for a similar offense twenty-two years before. The steamboat *Shoshone* was fired on by Indians on the Snake river. A stage station on the Boise-Auburn road was raided at the crossing on the Payette river in which some horses were stolen.

On the morning of October 21, 1867, two army non-commissioned officers, Sergeants Nichols and Denoille, accompanied by the latter's wife, left Camp Lyon, in the vicinity of Jordan valley, in a four-horse ambulance for Fort Boise. Mrs. Denoille was in delicate condition. While passing through a rocky canyon, nine miles from Camp Lyon, they were attacked by Indians. Sergeant Denoille, who was driving the ambulance, was killed by the first volley. Sergeant Nichols, unaware his fellow soldier had been killed, battled with the savages until Denoille's body fell from the ambulance. The frightened horses ran away at full speed for half a mile, when a wheel-horse fell, stopping the vehicle. Nichols sprang from the wagon, followed by Mrs. Denoille. He urged her to conceal herself among the rocks before the savages overtook them. Bereft of reason, because of the tragedy, Mrs. Denoille ran back down the road to find her husband. Nichols hid in the rocks and when night came on escaped to a farm house.

A rescue party from Silver City found Sergeant Denoille's body, stripped and mutilated, but no trace could be found of his wife. A scouting party immediately sent out from Camp Lyon came upon an Indian camp on the Owyhee river. The Indians fled, leaving two squaws, who declared Mrs. Denoille had not been harmed but was being held for ransom. Colonel Koppinger and Captain Hunt led troops that pursued the savages but the Indians eluded them.

About the middle of December a second party of troops attacked an Indian encampment in the Owyhee breaks, killing twenty and capturing six. Some of Mrs. Denoille's clothing was found on one of the captured squaws, who told the soldiers the woman had been taken south to Winnemucca where she was being held for ransom. It was not until the summer of 1868 that Mrs. Denoille's fate became known, when H. Hicks, a scout, was shown the place where the woman had been killed by the savages and her bleaching bones were found. She had been taken half a mile from the road where her husband was killed, dragged to a large stone and her head placed on the rock and crushed with other stones. The Indian who led Hicks to the spot where the woman's bones were found, and revealed the part he had taken in the murder, was immediately shot by the soldiers. Bigfoot, in his dying statement, is said to have confessed that he was the leader of the savages

committed this outrage and led the same band that murdered Mr. and Mrs. Scott.

General Steele was succeeded as commander of the Columbia on November 23, 1867, by General H. L. Rosseau, who continued the plan for a winter campaign against the Indians in the Lakes, Owyhee and Boise districts. General Crook, with some of his troops was constantly in the field, marching from ten to twenty miles daily through unbroken country, sometimes in snow from one to two feet deep. In February, 1868, he encountered Indians on Dunder and Blitzen creek, killing and capturing fourteen of the enemy. As he was returning to headquarters at Fort Warner his camp was secretly attacked at night by the savages, who killed twenty-three horses and mules by shooting them with arrows and cutting their throats. Only two of the Indians were later caught and killed. A battle was fought near Steen's mountain on April 28th in which several Indians were killed. The strenuous campaign waged by General Crook was having a telling effect on the hostiles.

Early in the spring of 1868 Piute Indians raided a small settlement on Clark creek in Baker county and drove off several head of horses. Seven settlers followed the raiders and overtook them near the Grant county line. Laying in wait, the Indians ambushed the white men and killed a young man named Jonas Belknap. His comrades retreated, but returned the next day with a larger force, to bury the body. They found Belknap's body cut up into small pieces and placed on sharp pointed poles stuck in the ground. Another of the party, Alex Sullivan, was surprised and killed. A short time later the Piutes made a night raid on the Amelia settlement, six miles east of Eldorado, tore down a large corral made of cottonwood logs and drove off fifty head of stock. The next morning five settlers went in pursuit and tracked the thieves up Willow creek for twenty miles beyond Eldorado. When they stopped to eat their lunch in a small cove they were fired on from ambush and a man named Sutherland was killed. The others gave up the pursuit and retreated back to Eldorado.

In March, a man named Jarvis was killed by Indians near the Carson farm on the Owyhee. In May, Indians attacked another stage on the Boise and Silver City road and killed the driver, Robert Dixon. They were pursued and thirty-four savages were killed.

During the spring of 1868 Chief E'Gantz and his Piutes made several raids on stock ranches between Mormon basin, Burnt river and the Malheur, driving off stock and capturing two freight-wagon trains. In May troops from Fort Harney invaded the Indian country on the headwaters of the Malheur river. On the North fork of the Malheur, near Castle Rock (at that time called Malheur Castle) they surprised a Piute encampment of fourteen lodges. The notorious Chief E'Gantz and a number of his Piutes were captured. E'Gantz expressed a desire for peace and stated that the head

chief, Winnemucca, was also weary of war. E'Gantz promised, if permitted, to send couriers to bring in all Piute warriors and the head chief. E'Gantz was released to carry out his agreement, while about sixty Piutes, including his family, were held as hostages by General Crook. General Rosseau had issued an order that all Indians captured in the Owyhee district should be sent to Fort Vancouver.

Soon thereafter, General Crook was temporarily placed in command of the Department of the Columbia. General Halleck, commander of the Department of the Pacific, had issued orders that no treaty could be signed with Indians by officers under his jurisdiction without first consulting him. So it was necessary for General Crook to wait at Fort Harney until he obtained instructions from General Halleck in San Francisco.

On June 30, 1868, General Crook met with the hostile chiefs at Fort Harney to negotiate a peace treaty. This famous Indian fighter gave the chiefs to understand they must cease hostilities immediately or their tribes would be exterminated. Many of their warriors had already been killed. Crook's ultimatum had the desired effect, as the terrified chiefs eagerly accepted the General's own terms without protest. General Crook gave head Chief Winnemucca to understand that he would be held strictly accountable for the good conduct of all Piutes. Crook was not in favor of confining Indians on reservations so he allowed them to return to their former localities with headquarters on the Malheur river near Castle Rock. The Piutes surrendered all the stolen property they had accumulated.

Early in July, Chief Winnemucca, with three sub-chiefs and about eighty warriors, surrendered at Camp C. F. Smith. In August, Bigfoot was killed at his favorite haunts on Reynolds creek by John Wheeler, after all but five of his followers had been killed, and the Indian wars of the 60's in Eastern Oregon and Idaho were at an end.

General Crook, now in command of the Department of the Columbia, was invited to Salem to receive personally the thanks of the Oregon legislature, being then in session, for bringing Indian hostilities to an end.

According to H. H. Bancroft, from the time of the first settlement in Southeastern Oregon in 1863, until June, 1868, there had been 264 white people killed and 1,130 wounded by Indians, making a total casualty list of 1,394. Of these only about ninety were killed or wounded in battle.

During 1870-71 the Piutes again became restless and fear arose among settlers for the safety of their lives and property. Indian Superintendent A. B. Meacham held a number of conferences with the leading chiefs at Fort Harney and other points in the vicinity of Lake Warner and Goose lake from October, 1868, to March, 1871. In March, 1871, by an executive order, a reservation containing 2,275 square miles was established on the north fork of the Malheur river in the vicinity of Castle Rock. An Indian agency was established in the basin not far from Castle Rock and the valley has

since been known as Agency valley. In 1873 a large number of the Piute tribe settled upon this reservation. After General Crook negotiated the peace treaty with the Piutes in 1868 there were no further Indian disturbances in Southeastern Oregon for the next ten years. Then came the Bannock-Piute Indian war of 1878.

CHAPTER 5

THE RIVER OF TIME

*O! A wonderful stream is the River Time,
As it flows through a realm of tears,
With faultless rhythm and musical rhyme,
And a broader sweep and a surge sublime
As it blends with the Ocean of Years.*

*How the winters are drifting like flakes of snow,
And the summers like buds between,
And the years in the sheaf—so they come and they go
On the River's breast with its ebb and flow,
As they glide in the shadow and sheen.*

—B. F. Taylor.

A. H. McGregor, one of my old time friends, related to me an interesting story that was told to him by W. F. Masters, founder of the town of Payette. Mr. McGregor was among the first residents of Ontario and was one of the first to engage in the hotel business in Payette.

Mr. Masters told of the exploits of four adventurers from an emigrant train who, in 1852, attempted to navigate the Snake river from near the mouth of the Boise river to the Columbia and on to the coast using wagon beds for boats. Mr. Masters' father was one of this party. The emigrant train of which the men were members was camped near old Fort Boise when the plan was decided upon. Turning their horses loose on Goose island in the Boise river, they calked up their wagon-beds water tight, loaded in their belongings and started down the "Raging Snake" on their perilous journey. It was late in the fall, and they realized they would be unable to reach the coast overland before spring on account of the deep snow in the Blue mountains. The water was placid where they launched

their makeshift craft and they hoped it would remain so all the way. Evidently they had not heard of the dangerous gorge some sixty miles below.

Shortly after entering the rapids in the Snake river canyon, near the present town of Huntington, their frail barks capsized and the occupants were thrown into the cold water. One man, Dugan by name, was drowned. Masters managed to swim to the shore on the Idaho side, while his remaining two companions succeeded in reaching the Oregon shore. Masters took off his clothes, tied them to his back, and swam the river to the Oregon side, rejoining his companions. The weather was quite cold and ice had formed along the edge of the river. One of the trunks floated into an eddy and was recovered. This was all they managed to save from the shipwreck. They proceeded to build a fire, dried their clothes, and continued the journey on foot.

After traveling a short distance they came to a small stream, presumably Burnt river, which they said was literally alive with salmon. So numerous were the fish that, with forked sticks, they caught all the fish they could eat. They built a fire by a large log and caught more fish and dried them by the fire. The fish were all the food they had, as they had lost all their provisions when the boats capsized. After drying what they considered was enough to last them the rest of the journey they divided the fish into separate piles and drew lots to determine to which one each lot would be assigned. After traveling several days dissension arose among them as to who was carrying the heaviest load, and they parted company, one man traveling alone with his load and the other two continuing the journey together. After encountering many hardships on the way all three reached the Willamette valley the following spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Stroup said they did not doubt this "fish story," for when they first settled in the Washoe bottom in 1873, they had seen the salmon come up the Snake river from the sea and fill the Payette river and adjacent sloughs so thick that they could easily have been caught in the same manner described by the three unfortunate navigators.

Ezra Meeker, who came over the Oregon Trail in 1852, the same year the four men of the Masters party attempted to navigate the Snake river, says:

"In 1852 there were few ferries and none in many places where crossings were to be made, and when here and there a ferry was found the charges were high, or perhaps the word should be exorbitant, and out of reach of a large majority of the emigrants.

"About thirty miles below Salmon Falls the dilemma confronted us to either cross the river or let our teams starve on the trip down the river on the south bank. Some trains had calked three wagon-beds and lashed them together and were crossing, and would not help others across for less than three to five dollars a wagon, the party swimming their own stock. If others could cross in wagon-beds why could not I?

"My boyhood pranks of playing and paddling logs or old, leaky skiffs in the waters of White river now served me well, for I could row a boat even if I had never taken lessons in athletics. My first venture across Snake river was with

the whole of the wagon gear run over the wagon box, the whole thing being gradually worked out into deep water. The load was so heavy that a very small margin was left to prevent the water from breaking over the sides, and some actually did as light ripples on the surface struck the 'Mary Jane,' as we had christened (without wine) the 'craft' as she was launched. But I got over safely; yet after that took lighter loads and really enjoyed the novelty of the work and the change from the intolerable dust to the atmosphere of the water.

"Some were so infatuated with the idea of floating on the water as to be easily persuaded by an unprincipled trader at the lower crossing to dispose of their teams for a song, and embark in their wagon-bed for a voyage down the river. It is needless to say that all such (of which there was a goodly number) lost everything they had and some their lives, the survivors, after incredible hardships, reaching the road again to become objects of charity where separated from their friends."

The Masters party was evidently among those mentioned by Mr. Meeker. Ezra Meeker, a grandson of the Ezra Meeker of Oregon Trail fame, and a friend of mine, has for many years been postmaster at Cajon, California, where I am at this writing.

W. F. Masters, founder of Payette, Idaho, died at Maimi, Florida, in February, 1931. A. H. McGregor, now deceased, was the father of Mrs. S. H. Ross and Mrs. Eva Belisle of Ontario, Oregon.

Mr. McGregor related to me another story told to him by Peter Pence, also an early pioneer resident of Payette, who has long since passed over the "Great Divide." Mr. Pence came over the Oregon Trail in 1862, enroute to the coast. When the wagon train he was with was camped at the old emigrant ford on the Malheur river, near the present town of Vale for a few days' rest, one of the women of the party died after giving birth to a baby girl. The grave mentioned in the first chapter of this story, near the head of the Nevada ditch, is supposed by some to contain the remains of this unfortunate emigrant mother who fell by the wayside. Mr. Pence stated that the baby girl lived and grew to womanhood. She was named Malheur in honor of the river upon the banks of which she was born. But sad to relate, yet true to the tradition of the river of ill omens, Miss Malheur turned out to be a notorious character and a dishonor to the pioneer mother who sacrificed her life upon the banks of the "unhappy river."

When J. M. Brown erected the Carter House in Ontario he first decided it should go by name of the Malheur Hotel. Johnny Carter, oldest son of the late Josiah Carter, leased the hotel and was the first to open this hostelry to the public. When they learned the meaning of the word, Malheur, it was decided to give the new hotel a new name, as the name originally decided upon was hardly considered appropriate, and the hotel has ever since been known as the Carter House.

Several years ago there was considerable agitation over the changing of the name of Malheur county for the same reason that the name of the Malheur hotel was changed. I believe that the late Fred J. Kiesel was the first to propose the changing of the name and he submitted the name of Arcadia county to take the place of Malheur. But most of the inhabitants

of the county seem to look at the question in a matter-of-fact way and asked: "What's in a name, anyway?" The matter was never brought to a vote. This was shortly after the time of the extension of the Owyhee ditch and Mr. Kiesel had begun the improvement of the Arcadia ranch. He had induced the railroad company to build a depot near the ranch which was also named Arcadia, and he was desirous of having the county seat located there.

About this time there was also a movement in Eastern Oregon and Idaho to change the name of Snake river, for the reason it was said, that many prospective settlers had been turned away from this fertile section by gaining the impression from the name of the river that the adjacent country was infested with venomous reptiles. As a matter of fact there was not a new county in the West at that time, or today, that was or is freer of snakes and other reptiles than the beautiful and fertile valley of the Snake. For many years there was a large den of rattle snakes in the side of the Malheur butte, but the lower Snake river valley as a whole is infested with very few snakes of any specie. The movement to change the name of Snake river like that to change the name of Malheur county, also failed.

In my story, "*An Intimate History of the Early Days in Malheur County, Oregon*," published in the *Ontario Argus* in 1930-31, I mentioned the legend of the naming of the Malheur river, and the meaning of the name. Representative C. F. Oxman then introduced a bill in the lower house of the Oregon legislature to change the name of Malheur county and the Malheur river to Sinnott county and Sinnott river. Mr. Oxman stated that his purpose in introducing the measure was to honor the late Congressman from Eastern Oregon, Honorable N. J. Sinnott, who was very instrumental in securing appropriations for the installation of the Owyhee and Vale irrigation projects from the United States government. The measure passed the lower house of the legislature but was defeated in the state senate when a strong committee from Ontario and Vale appeared before that body to protest against its passage.

The steamboat, named the *Shoshone*, was built and launched in Snake river at the Riverside ferry in the spring of 1866 by the Oregon Steam Navigation Company. F. K. Froman was operating the ferry at the time the steamboat was launched there. The steamer was built for the purpose of transporting passengers and supplies between Old's ferry and Riverside ferry on the way to Boise City, Idaho basin and Owyhee mines. It was constructed under the supervision of a man named Gates. The *Shoshone* was a stern-wheel craft and the owners expected to be able to navigate Snake river as far up stream as Salmon Falls. The boat was built under many disadvantages, hundreds of miles from a machine shop and many miles from a sawmill. The lumber used in construction was hewn from mountain pine and had to be transported some distance. The iron used in con-

struction was brought in from the lower country on pack animals at great expense and then worked into shape at the ferry.

When completed the *Shoshone*, in command of Captain Josiah Myrick, started on her maiden trip May 16, 1866. The experiment proved a failure. The vessel could not navigate Snake river above the mouth of the Bruneau river, a little more than half way between the Boise landing near Riverside ferry and Salmon Falls. Scarcity of wood along the river for fuel added to the inconvenience of navigation. Even before the boat had been completed a shorter route was found to the mines, and the boat proved a dead loss to the company. It was then decided, if possible, to take the *Shoshone* through the dangerous Snake river canyon to operate with other steamers of the company between Lewiston and The Dalles.

In 1870, Captain Cyrus Smith was sent by the company to take the craft through the box canyon to Lewiston. Smith succeeded in piloting the steamer from near Huntington through the canyon to Lime Point, but was unwilling to attempt to go further. Leaving the boat in charge of another man named Smith and a man named Livingston, the captain went on to the Columbia and reported to the company that the boat could not be brought any further, as Copper Ledge Falls could not be navigated. The company decided to abandon the boat in the canyon, but later Captain Ainsworth, head of the company, concluded to risk the attempt to bring the *Shoshone* on to Lewiston, and sent Captain Sebastian Miller to make the attempt.

Captain Miller with Engineer D. E. Buchanan, Mate Livingston, Fireman Smith and one deck hand, W. T. Hodges, took charge of the *Shoshone* and first put the boat in good order to make the voyage. They waited until the river rose before starting on the hazardous trip through the gorge. They started on April 20th, and with difficulty navigated Copper Ledge Falls, which Captain Smith had said was an impossibility, and navigated the gorge to Lewiston after a perilous voyage. At one place Captain Miller almost lost his life when a large log, rolling down a mountain-side, passed over his body, as the men were collecting fuel. The boat was almost wrecked three times, when dashed against boulders in the rapids, after which they had to anchor and make repairs.

At one place in the river they came to a large eddy, just before entering a swift rapid, which included a fifteen-foot fall in two hundred yards where the waters were divided by several islands of large boulders. The steamer was whirled around three times by the swift current and then plunged over the falls. After passing through this rapid the crew was compelled to stop two days to make repairs. In passing one of the rapids eight feet of the bow was broken off above the water line. On April 26, they passed the mouth of the Salmon river flowing into Snake river from the east, and at 4 p.m. on the same day, they anchored for the night at the mouth of Grand

Ronde river flowing in from the west. At 7 a.m., on April 17, they started on the last run. Shooting through the Wild Goose rapids without accident they arrived at Lewiston about 9 p.m. the same day. The *Shoshone* was the first boat of any description to navigate the great Snake river canyon, and was seven days making the voyage from Copper Ledge Falls to Lewiston.

From Lewiston the *Shoshone* was taken down the Snake and Columbia to The Dalles by Captain Holmes where extensive repairs were made. She was operated as a cattle boat on the upper Columbia until 1873 when Captain Ainsworth piloted her over the Cascades to the lower Columbia and up the Willamette. The Columbia Steamboat & Navigation Company sold the *Shoshone* to the Willamette River Transportation Company and she was operated on the Willamette until she struck a rock and sank in shallow water near Salem late in 1874. The machinery was taken out in November of that year. The following January the *Shoshone* hull came to the surface and floated down river to Lincoln, where it was taken ashore and converted into a chicken house.

This stolid old craft had traversed Snake river, the Columbia and Willamette from near the Idaho capitol to the Oregon capitol and traveled more continuous miles on the waters of these three rivers than any other boat.

CHAPTER 6

THREE SNAKE RIVER MASSACRES

*"And many a rock was an ambuscade
That sheltered a skulking foe;
And wild cries echoed the Indian yell
While men and women and children fell;
And arrows fell like snow."*

—Mrs. J. C. Davis.

Of the many tragedies that occurred along the Oregon Trail three of the most tragic took place in the Snake river valley between American Falls and old Fort Boise. They happened in three different years at times when no Indian wars were going on. The first of the three outrages is known as the Ward Massacre because Alexander Ward was captain of the small wagon train that was annihilated. As there are three or four different versions of

the dastardly outrage, all of which differ in some respects, it is difficult to record just what actually took place on that fateful day. It is known, however, that a small wagon train, numbering some twenty persons, including men, women and children—traveling in five wagons—was practically exterminated and that only one or two small boys survived the frightful slaughter. The number of Indians taking part in the massacre has been variously estimated from about thirty to two hundred warriors.

THE WARD MASSACRE

This massacre took place near the Boise river, on the south side, in the vicinity of the present town of Middleton, Idaho, August 20, 1854. From only fragments of information, given by persons who claimed to have personal knowledge, it appears that most of the emigrants were from Missouri or possibly some state farther east or south. William M. Ward, who claimed to have been one of the two small boys who escaped, and who said he was eleven years old at the time, stated that they were from Johnston, Missouri. Bancroft said that Alexander Ward, leader of the emigrant train, was from Kentucky. He gave the number of emigrants in the train as twenty-one and said most of them were killed. Another writer says they were from Lexington, Missouri. William Ward did not give the total number of emigrants in the train, but taking into account those he mentioned there were twenty-one. All reference to William Ward, the youngest of the two surviving Ward brothers, is taken from the signed statement of William M. Ward, in which he declares he was one of the two survivors. This document is in the archives of the *Idaho Historical Society* in the capitol building at Boise. In this document he states that his father, Alexander Ward and family, and Mrs. Ward's sister, Mrs. Eliza White and her four-year-old son, left Johnston, Missouri, March 20, 1854, with three wagons. Mrs. White's husband was already in Oregon and she and her young son were on their way there to join him. A teamster had been employed to drive Mrs. White's ox team. On the road they were joined by six men with two wagons.

According to William M. Ward, they made the journey without trouble or mishap until the fatal August 20, when they drove off the road near the Boise river for a noonday luncheon and to let their stock feed. This was about twenty-five miles west of the present city of Boise. His oldest brother, Robert, was guarding the stock, when he came running into camp and reported Indians had taken one of the horses. The emigrants hitched up their teams and drove out on the road—where it was more open—when they were surrounded by about two hundred Indians. The emigrants were immediately attacked but the party managed to keep the Indians at bay until about sundown. By this time the men were all killed and the Indians came

to the wagons where the women and children were. Quoting his own words: "My brother Newton and I attempted to escape to the brush but we were both shot by arrows. I was shot through the left side and lung. The last I remember, they were riding their horses over me. In the meantime, my brother Newton, who was not so severely wounded, was knocked down again. He was rescued by a number of men from a train who were camped on the Boise river west of the massacre; they hearing the reports of guns, realized that we were attacked, and about twenty of them rushed to the rescue. They were too late to save the women and children who were killed and burned in a horrible manner. One of the rescuers was also killed. My brother, Newton, was saved by the party and taken to Oregon."

William Ward was shot through the left lung and side with an arrow and remained unconscious on the ground until the next morning. Upon regaining consciousness he started down the river for Fort Boise. He missed the ford and wandered farther down the stream. He became lost and failed to meet the party coming up from Fort Boise to bury those who had been murdered. The boy wandered two or three days without food before finding his way to Fort Boise. The arrow was still in his body when he reached the fort. H. F. Isaacs and three other men who were operating a ferry boat were living at the fort at the time of the massacre—the fort having been abandoned by the Hudson Bay Company. After feeding the wounded boy they extracted the arrow from his body. He remained at the fort for about a week recuperating. The last emigrant train of that year arrived and took young Ward with them to The Dalles. On account of his condition he was conveyed in a spring wagon used by one of the emigrant families. The emigrant charged one dollar a day for the carriage, which was paid by donations contributed by residents of Portland.

William Ward said that after he left Fort Boise with the emigrants on the way to The Dalles, they met General Haller on Burnt river. Haller was then on his way from Fort Walla Walla with soldiers to the scene of the massacre. Ward says he met Haller ten years later on Powder river and the General informed him that he succeeded in capturing only two of the Indians. Haller said that the Indians told him that one of the two boys they carried off died and the other one cried so much that they killed him. In the Oregon-Washington Indian war of 1855-58 the two young Ward boys, according to William, enlisted and took part in some of the battles.

John Haily, the well-known Idaho pioneer and historian, said he was personally acquainted with William M. Ward, who claimed he was the younger of the two survivors of the Ward massacre. He said his acquaintance with Ward was from 1864 to 1871. This noted pioneer, in his history of Idaho, stated he believed William M. Ward's account of the massacre and vouched for Ward's truthfulness. William M. Ward spent his later life in Oakland, California. His brother, whom he called Newton—others

called him Norman—was a resident of The Dalles for a number of years and later lived at Pendleton.

According to some accounts of the massacre only one boy, Norman Ward escaped the massacre. Others have said two of the Ward boys escaped the massacre and gave their names as Norman, thirteen; and William, eleven, at the time of the tragedy. Norman had been beaten over the head with a club and left for dead by the savages. After the Indians had gone he revived, and although partly demented from his injuries, managed to secret himself in the nearby brush where he was found by those coming to the rescue and taken to Fort Boise and later to The Dalles. From William M. Ward's account it appears he lay among the other victims of the massacre in an unconscious condition, and the first rescuers evidently believed he was dead, at the time they found his brother hidden in the brush and took him to the fort. When the second party later came from the fort to bury the dead, William had regained consciousness and wandered off down the river.

Captain Ward and his oldest son, Robert, Dr. Adams, Babcock and Muligan put up a gallant fight, but being greatly outnumbered they were soon killed. Ward's oldest daughter, Mary, attempted to escape but was pursued and overtaken by the demons after running about one hundred yards. She fought desperately to protect herself from the hellish designs of the fiendish savages. Her desperate resistance so enraged the red villians that they killed her by shooting her in the head. One of the five wagons was burned near where she fell and her body was frightfully mutilated with hot irons from the burning wagon.

Three young men of the emigrant party, who had gone back over the trail to look for the stolen horses, rode up over a small hill just at the time of the massacre. One of the men was young Amen, said to be engaged to Miss Ward. When he saw her attempting to escape, pursued by the savages, he urged the other two men to join him in an attempt to rescue her. When they hesitated Amen dashed to her assistance and was killed by the Indians. Those who later found and buried the victims said Amen's body was found near that of his dead sweetheart. It was said he killed nine of the Indians.

After all the men and Mary Ward were killed, the other two women and the children were taken captive. The savages started with the captives and the remaining four wagons for their camp on the Boise river, about a mile distant. After going a short distance, they stopped and burned three of the wagons and attacked Mrs. White, after which they killed her. Mrs. Ward with the children and the remaining wagon were taken to the camp, where she was violated, after which she and the children were put to death.

John F. Noble, who was on his way from a trip east to his home in Washington Territory, was camped with eighteen other men at Fort Boise at the time of the massacre. Noble said he headed a party that went to the scene of the massacre and buried the bodies. He said there were four of

the children missing and he never knew what became of them. They evidently were the two Ward boys that escaped and the two captive children that were carried off by the Indians who later died or were killed by the savages. Noble said he continued his homeward journey the day following the burial of the victims. He said that seven men, one of whom was Amen, attacked the Indians and that Amen and another man named Yantis were killed, after which the other men retreated.

A graphic account of the scenes following the tragedy is given by W. D. Butler, one of the volunteers who accompanied Major Haller to the scene of the tragedy. Butler's narrative was written more than forty years after the terrible crime was committed. The old manuscript, although partly obliterated, has been preserved. It was read at a meeting of the *Lower Boise Pioneer Association*, Chapter of the *Daughters of the American Revolution*, held at the scene of the massacre, Sunday, June 17, 1928, nearly seventy-four years after the date of the massacre. Mr. Butler's account of his experience follows:

"Probably the hardest horseback ride made through a hostile Indian country, and the most remarkable case of endurance on record in the Northwest, was the 400-mile ride of Enoch Fruit, from Fort Boise to The Dalles, in August, 1854. When without rest he traversed the distance in four days and nights. Fruit was employed by H. P. Isaac and Orlando Humason to convey the news of the massacre of twenty-three emigrants at a place some forty miles east of Fort Boise. The horrible story told by the messenger created great excitement at The Dalles, but as an eye witness to the scene of horror a short time after, I can testify that man could not tell of, nor pen describe, the sickening sight and do it justice, and to the memory of those who with me viewed it, it will always rank in the annals of savagery as the most fiendish ever perpetrated—but of that later.

"On receipt of the news we gathered as quickly as possibly a force of regulars and volunteers, and started for Fort Boise. Our companies consisted of thirty-six regulars under Major Granville O. Haller, and by picking up a few after starting we had about the same number of volunteers under Captain Nate Olney, with Orlando Neal and I. Stoley, as lieutenants.

"At Grande Ronde valley we were joined by about twenty Cayuse and Nez Perce Indians as allies; R. R. Thompson, an Indian agent, with his two packers, and former Governor Gaines accompanied us from that point. Governor Gaines being on his way to meet his family, who were on their way to Oregon. (Governor Gaines met his family near the scene of the massacre.)

"On leaving Grande Ronde valley, Olney took about eighteen men and our Indian allies and made a forced march to the Owyhee, where he surprised, at early dawn, an Indian encampment, killing about ten and taking fifteen prisoners, which he held in the bastions of old Fort Boise until the arrival of Major Haller with the rest of the command.

"As soon as Major Haller had made camp a short distance from the fort, the prisoners were started from their quarters with the intention of bringing them before him. It happened to be about dinner time, and at the sound of the bugle call our captives took it for granted that their death warrant had been signed, and scattered to make a desperate run for liberty. A half-breed Indian addressed them in their own tongue, and succeeded in reassuring them, and all but one stopped. This unfortunate was brought to a halt by a charge of bird shot fired by one of the tame Indians, who bore the very appropriate name of 'Cut Mouth John.' The shot did not cause serious injury but the Siwash concluded to make the most of it, so jumped into the air, fell flat, and after a few death struggles was apparently dead. We gathered around the corpse, but Cut Mouth John declared him 'awake memalose,' and deliberately poked the end of his iron ramrod

into the victim's eye, which though a severe test of death, in this case proved a very effectual one, for the victim jumped to his feet with a howl of pain and went back to his comrades . . . (old manuscript here obliterated.)

"We were soon convinced that this band had not been concerned in the massacre, and learned that the tribe that had committed the deed had gone north, so we took a northeasterly course, and after a hard day's ride reached the Payette valley, and the second day found their camp, with fires still burning. There it was evident the band had scattered in all directions to avoid pursuit.

"The next morning we saw two hostiles and, closely pressed, they ran into a small creek and hid, but our most careful search could not discover their hiding place, so the whites abandoned the search. Not so with our Indian allies, who would not leave the stream until they secured the scalps of the fugitives, and finally their perseverance was awarded; the fugitives were found in a hole which water had washed in the bank and which the sod and vegetation concealed from view of any but these human bloodhounds. (manuscript obliterated.) Striking out to the Boise valley, we found the thigh bone and leg down to the boot of some boy that had been killed.

"We turned down the river to the scene of the massacre. It is over forty-two years since I visited that spot, and yet the horror of the sight is often before my eyes. Here were the ghastly remains of twenty-three men, women and children, stripped of their clothing and putrifying in the sun. The men and children had been killed, the wagons burned, the six women of mature age had been taken a distance of fifty yards, thrown down—and not even then satisfied to dispatch their victims, these inhuman fiends took the red-hot bolts from the burning wagons and thrust them into the bodies of the helpless victims, thus burning them to death.

"After stripping all the victims naked, the fiends had cut open the featherbeds and scattered the feathers over the bodies. Mr. Isaac and others had hastily attempted to bury the decaying bodies, but the Indians had returned and dragged them from the shallow graves and left them to rot exposed to the sun and storm, or to be devoured by wild beasts.

"The unfortunate train consisted of three families named Ward, Wilson, and the other I have forgotten. Two of the Ward boys, 12 and 14 years of age, escaped, forded the river and made their way to Fort Boise, where they were cared for by Isaac and Humason, who brought them to The Dalles. I afterward became acquainted with one of the Wards at The Dalles.

"After burying the bodies we started back to Fort Boise. I have forgot to mention, however, that owing to the increase of our force, prisoners, etc., we had been out of provisions for two weeks, and had been living on horse flesh; but when we reached the fort we met the government supply train, which had been delayed on account of being burdened with an old cannon sent out by Uncle Sam.

"The season being so far advanced it was thought best that part of our forces return to The Dalles, so Major Haller, ten regulars and about as many volunteers, with our Indians, took the old cannon and started on the return. On the upper Umatilla river we found a large concourse of friendly Indians (estimated from 2,000 to 3,000), who had prepared a grand reception—killed beef, brought vegetables, and made ready to treat us royally, and here we camped, cooked and made merry. After dark, commenced the war dance over the scalps we had brought in. They built two rows of fires about 150 yards long, the warriors taking the middle isle, with the squaws on the outside; then with the beating of drums, tomtoms, pounding on boards with sticks, with song and chants, interrupted frequently with the most unearthly yells, and with their war clubs fringed and painted, they beat the scalps from one end of the fires to the other and . . . (here manuscript again obliterated.)

"All the time keeping up their dance, the figures made weird and horrible in the firelight, it was such a reception as few have ever had the fortune or misfortune to be honored with. The next day, for fear of more honors, we wended our way toward The Dalles, which we reached in due time and were discharged."

A monument has been erected over the graves of the victims, who were buried at the scene of the massacre, by *Pioneer Chapter, Daughters of the*

American Revolution. The granite shaft carries the names of the eighteen victims and the following inscription:

"To the Memory of the Pioneers Who Were Massacred Near This Spot, August 20, 1854; Alexander Ward, age 44; Margaret Ward, 37; Mary Ward, 18; Robert Ward, 16; Edward Ward, 9; Francis Ward, 7; Flora Ward, 5; Susan Ward, 3; Eliza White, 30; George White, 4; Dr. Adams, Charles Adams, Samuel Mulligan, William Babcock, ——— Amen, Adolph Schwartz, John Fredrick, French-Canadian. This Monument is Dedicated by Pioneer Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution."

The French-Canadian inscribed on the granite stone is evidently the man mentioned by William M. Ward and John F. Noble as one of the men who attempted to rescue the women and children and was killed by Indians.

Credit for the erection of the impressive monument is largely due to Mrs. G. W. Mains, now deceased. Mrs. Mains was a former president of the Idaho D.A.R. She was also most instrumental in securing an acre of ground surrounding the graves which has been cleared of all brush and converted into a beautiful park by Civilian Conservation Corps workers.

A motive for the brutal and unspeakable crime remained a mystery for more than twenty years. Then, in November, 1878, William T. Anderson, of Fisherman's Cove, Humboldt county, California, sent to the *Idaho Statesman*, of Boise, an account of the killing of the notorious half-breed Indian-Negro renegade, Big Foot, by John Wheeler. The story was published again by the *Statesman* in December, 1928.

According to the story told by Anderson he was an eye witness of the duel between Wheeler and Bigfoot in which the half-breed renegade was killed. Anderson, in his statement, said he was a carpenter and at the time of the duel lived at Silver City, Idaho. According to his story, he was on his way with a team and wagon from Silver City to Boise in the latter part of July, 1868. He had stopped just before entering a dangerous gorge on Reynolds creek, to await the arrival of company as he feared to enter the pass alone, which was noted for numerous Indian attacks. Many tragedies had taken place in this gorge. Anderson said he had unhitched his horses and turned them loose to graze and while resting in the shade he suddenly saw Bigfoot only about fifty yards away, running toward him, followed by two of his Indian band. Anderson believed the Indians had seen him and were coming to kill him. Bigfoot passed within about thirty feet of Anderson, but evidently did not see him, as he dashed on towards the road to attack an approaching stage coach, the noise of which could be heard approaching the pass. There were about a half-dozen passengers on the stage, some of whom were women, bound from Silver City to Boise. Just then, Anderson said, he heard the crack of a rifle, and the nearest Indian, following a short distance behind Bigfoot, fell dead within about twenty yards of where Anderson was hiding. The other Indian turned and ran back over a hill and was not seen again. Anderson said: "I saw Charley

Barnes, a noted stage driver, drive furiously through the canyon, all unmindful of the danger he and his passengers had escaped." At the report of the rifle Bigfoot jumped behind a rock, at the same time keeping his eyes on a clump of willows. He camouflaged himself by tying a bunch of sagebrush on his back and started crawling stealthily in the direction of Anderson, whom he had evidently not yet discovered. Just then a voice called:

"Get up from there Bigfoot, you old feather-headed, leather-bellied coward! I can see you crawling away like a snake! This is one time you did not get even a woman's scalp! Here is a scalp! Come and get it, you coward!"

Bigfoot sprang to his feet and leveled a big double-barreled rifle at the willows and said:

"You coward, me no coward! You come out, I'll scalp you, too!"

Wheeler sprang out from the willow in full view, and said:

"Here I am, now sail in old rooster!"

Both men fired at once. Bigfoot staggered, but recovered and fired again. He then threw down his gun and started to run toward the dead Indian. He ran only a short distance when a second shot from Wheeler's gun again staggered him; then another shot caused him to reel. But he recovered and reached the spot where the dead Indian lay. Picking up the gun where the Indian had dropped it, he leveled it and fired at Wheeler just as Wheeler sent another bullet into the renegade's powerful frame. Bigfoot staggered and came near falling, but again recovered and drawing a knife, gave an unearthly war-whoop and started toward Wheeler. He advanced but a few yards when another bullet staggered him, and then another. Wheeler fired very rapidly, each shot taking effect. Wheeler never moved from his tracks as Bigfoot came toward him but continued to fire with extraordinary skill. When within thirty yards of Wheeler the renegade fell with a broken leg and was unable to rise again. Wheeler emptied all of the sixteen shots of his rifle into Bigfoot, and without moving from his tracks reloaded his rifle. He then said to Bigfoot:

"How do you like the way my gun shoots, old Hoss? I'll bet my scalp against yours that you don't scalp any more white men in this canyon soon."

Bigfoot replied in plain English: "Don't shoot any more. You've killed me."

Wheeler walked up near Bigfoot and drawing an ivory handled revolver, gazed at his fallen foe, and then called to Anderson to come out from his hiding place, assuring him there was no danger now.

Upon examination Wheeler and Anderson found Bigfoot bleeding from twelve wounds, with one arm and both legs broken. Bigfoot called for water. In order to render Bigfoot entirely helpless Wheeler shot and broke the renegade's other arm, before going for water, so he could do no harm. Wheeler then went to the willows where he had been secreted and

brought water to Bigfoot in his canteen. Bigfoot drank all the water and then called for whiskey. Wheeler gave him some alcohol which he drank. Bigfoot complained of being sick and blind; then falling on his back he appeared to be dead. He soon revived and said he felt better and asked for water to wash the dust and paint from his face so Wheeler and Anderson could see what a good-looking man he was. This request was granted and Anderson said he and Wheeler were both surprised to see a handsome face that had once been almost white, but now badly tanned. He had large black but wicked looking eyes. His hair was black and slightly kinky.

After Bigfoot revived he became quite talkative, although shot in a dozen places and mortally wounded. Wheeler asked Bigfoot if he knew that prominent citizens had offered \$1,000 reward to anyone who would bring his scalp and big feet to the fort at Boise City. Bigfoot said he knew of the reward but begged Wheeler not to scalp him nor take his scalp and feet to the fort. He promised Wheeler that if he would comply with this dying request he would reveal to him the story of his life. Wheeler promised Bigfoot that if he would tell who he was and where he came from he would probably grant his request, but insisted that Bigfoot tell the truth. Bigfoot replied that he had been a very bad man and that if he told of all of his crimes he was afraid Wheeler would refuse to comply with his request.

Wheeler then promised if Bigfoot would tell everything he would not scalp him nor take his body to Boise and that he would not even tell that the renegade was dead or anything else about him. Wheeler reminded Bigfoot that white people believed he was the leader of the Indians who had killed Mrs. Scott and her husband on Burnt river the previous fall, as the tracks of his feet were found at the scene of the attack, as they had always been found where white people had been killed in that part of the country. In Bigfoot's dying confession to Wheeler and Anderson, which Anderson said "was taken down," the renegade told them:

"I was born in the Cherokee Nation. My father was a white man, Archer Wilkerson. He was hanged for murder in the Cherokee Nation when I was a little boy. My mother was part Cherokee and part Negro. She was a good Christian woman. My name is Starr Wilkerson. I was thus named after Thomas Starr, a noted desperado in the Nation. I was always called Bigfoot Wilkerson as long as I can remember. The boys always made fun of me when I was a boy, because I was so large for my age and had such big feet."

He said he got to drinking when very young and nearly killed some of his tormentors in fights with his fists. He ran away from home when nineteen years old. At Tilaqua, at that time capitol of the Cherokee nation, he joined an emigrant train that was on its way to Oregon and drove a team across the plains for his board. The emigrants treated him kindly and he fell in love with a young lady of the party. It appears she did not

know he was part Negro and reciprocated his affection.

Somewhere along the road this emigrant party fell in with another wagon train from the state of New York. There was a young artist in the New York party by the name of Hart, who became the rival of Wilkerson for the young lady's affection. Bigfoot said the young artist told the girl some bad tales about him and after that she would have nothing to do with him. While the emigrants were camped in the Goose creek mountains the artist and Bigfoot were sent to look for some stray stock. Hart was armed with a gun, pistol and knife; Bigfoot was unarmed. They became involved in a quarrel over the girl and Hart informed Bigfoot he intended to marry her when they got to Oregon. Bigfoot insisted he had a prior right to the girl. Hart retorted that he didn't think she would marry a "big-footed nigger." Wilkerson in a rage started toward Hart and the artist shot him, but the wound was not serious. Bigfoot grabbed the artist, threw him to the ground and choked him to death. He then took the artist's gun, knife and pistol, threw his body in Snake river and fled to the hills.

The emigrants remained in camp several days while search was made for the two missing men. Unable to locate them, most of the emigrants went on to Oregon, while the family of the girl and a few others turned back and went to Salt Lake City, where they spent the winter. Bigfoot made his way to the Boise river where he fell in with a French trapper and Joe Lewis. Lewis has been charged with creating the trouble that led to the Whitman massacre. Bigfoot said:

"Lewis was a bad man, but he was a good friend to me when I needed a friend. So, I went with him and joined the Indians and have been with them ever since."

The next year Bigfoot, Lewis and some Indians went near the emigrant road to steal stock from the emigrants. On one of these raids Bigfoot found some cattle that he knew belonged to the family he had crossed the plains with the year before. He went to the camp to see if his former sweetheart was there. He found her but she refused to have anything to do with him. The emigrants accused him of killing the young artist, said he should be hanged for the murder, and ordered him out of camp. Before departing he told the girl if she did not marry him she would be sorry before she got to Oregon. After being driven from the camp Bigfoot determined on revenge. Taking Joe Lewis and thirty Indians he followed the emigrants down the Boise river and massacred them in the horrible manner previously described, and drove off their stock. Bigfoot expressed regret for having killed the girl. He said she was a good girl but at the time he was young, mad and foolish.

The reader will note there are several variations in the different accounts given by various persons of the Ward massacre. There is a greater discrepancy given in the account by William T. Anderson, which he says

was revealed by Bigfoot in his dying statement, and the account given by William M. Ward. If the accounts given by Ward and Anderson are both authentic then these two are the only narrators who had personal knowledge of the attack on the emigrant train and also the place from which the emigrants migrated. Ward said they were from Missouri, while Bigfoot said he joined them in the Indian Territory (Oklahoma). There is evidently an error in one of the two accounts. William M. Ward says they crossed the plains in 1854 and says nothing of their turning back to Salt Lake City to spend the winter when two of the party failed to return after going to look for stray stock. He says nothing unusual happened on the overland journey until the day of the massacre on the Boise river and says nothing of being joined by another wagon train, except that six men in two wagons joined them soon after they started. As he was only eleven years old at the time of the massacre there may have been incidents on the trip that he had forgotten or omitted telling at the time he made his written statement. Another writer says Mary Ward was betrothed to young Amen, the man who sacrificed his life for her at the time of the massacre.

It is difficult to harmonize the different versions given by some of the writers of the tragedy which took place nearly a century ago. Eighteen names are inscribed on the monument that marks the common grave.

Besides confessing that he was the instigator and leader of the Indian murderers in the brutal Ward massacre Bigfoot confessed to a number of other crimes in which he led his outlaw Indian band. Among these the killing of Michael Jordan, for whom Jordan valley was named; the killing of an army officer and his wife, as they were on their way from Camp Lyon, in the southern part of what is now Malheur county, to Boise. He also admitted the killing of Mr. and Mrs. Scott on Burnt river because his band wanted the Scott team.

THE SINKER CREEK TRAGEDY

The second of the three massacres, is sometimes called "The Sinker Creek Tragedy." It is so named because the first attack on the emigrant train was made near that stream on September 9, 1860. The murders continued to occur along the trail as far as Farewell Bend in the northeast corner of Malheur county. Eleven of the forty-four members of the party were killed in the first attack. One was killed near the Owyhee ford, and close by five more died from exposure and starvation. Eight more were murdered near Farewell Bend and two were killed on the John Day Trail.

The name of the captain of this second ill-fated wagon train appears to have been Otter, or it may have been Ottley. Bancroft gives his name as Utter. Honorable Miles Cannon, for many years agriculture commissioner of Idaho, who interviewed some of the survivors and wrote an interesting

account of the tragedy, says the captain's name was Elijah Otter, and by that name he shall be known in this narrative.

Mr. Cannon wrote the first authentic account of this incident, which was published in the *Idaho Statesman*, of Boise, fifty-eight years after the massacre. His story was gathered from official military records and personal interviews with some of the survivors of the Otter party. In the introduction of his account of the tragedy, Mr. Cannon wrote:

"That this remarkable drama may be rescued from oblivion and become a part of the annals of our country, it is here produced from fragmentary records, which are now available, and from a long and patient interview with three of the five known survivors. For obvious reasons, however, the names of these three survivors will not be mentioned in this narrative."

The Otter party was from the vicinity of Geneva, Wisconsin. It numbered thirty-eight persons, with eight wagons, each drawn by two or three yoke of oxen. Besides the oxen there were about fifty head of herded cattle, a few horses and a valuable stallion. The personnel of the party consisted of the following:

Elijah and Mrs. Otter and their children, Mary, Abbey, Wesley, Charles, Henry, and an infant child whose name is not given. In addition there were three of Mrs. Otter's children by a former marriage: Emiline, Elizabeth, and Christopher Trimble, making eleven members of the family.

There were four men in the train with families and eight men without families. Other members of the train were:

Alexander and Mrs. Van Orman and five children, Marcus, Eliza, Minerva, Reuben and Lucinda.

Daniel and Mrs. Chase and three children, Daniel, Jr., Albert and Mary.

Joseph and Mrs. Myers and five children, Isabella, Margaret, Eugene, Harriet and Carry.

The eight men without families were Louis Lawson, William Ottley, Charles Kishnell, Judson Cressey, John W. Myers, Samuel Gleason, Joseph and Jacob Reith.

Crossing the Missouri river at Omaha, nothing unusual happened on the journey from there as they traveled westward to Fort Hall, where they arrived on August 27 and remained only one night. This was the last wagon train of 1860. The season was getting late and all were anxious to cross the Blue mountains before their way would become blocked with snow. Colonel Howe, who was stationed at Fort Hall with two or three companies of U. S. troops, guarding the trail from there westward toward California and Oregon, furnished an escort of twenty-five dragoons to accompany the emigrants as far as Raft river. Colonel Howe was unaware that troops stationed in the vicinity of Fort Boise had been withdrawn to Fort Dalles and Fort Walla Walla.

Somewhere along the trail after leaving Raft river the emigrants were joined by four or five adventurers, said to have been army deserters or

discharged soldiers from Fort Hall. Bancroft refers to them as discharged soldiers whose terms of enlistment had expired. The emigrants agreed to equip these men with saddle horses, rifles, revolvers and sustenance upon their individual promises to act as guards and escorts for the wagon train.

Whether or not the men were deserters from the army, they deserted the emigrants in their greatest hour of peril, stealing the horses, arms and ammunition which the emigrants had furnished them. Their names were Charles M. Chaffee, Henry Snider, Civilian G. Munson, Shamburg and Murdock. There is a question as to whether Civilian G. Munson was one of the adventurers or an original member of the train, or whether he joined the train along the trail before it reached Fort Hall. Cannon suggests that he may have given the name "Civilian" G. Munson to the army officers, who rescued the survivors, to distinguish himself from the deserters.

After leaving Fort Hall the Otter train followed the south trail and did not cross Snake river. On the evening of September 8th the emigrants camped on Sinkler creek, 1,230 miles from Omaha. This was the last peaceful camp made by the train. A cheerful evening was spent around the camp fire as prospects for future homes in Oregon were discussed.

Early the following morning, Alexander Van Orman drove out onto the road to lead the caravan that day. The valuable stallion, which was his property, was led behind his wagon. The other wagons soon lined up behind Van Orman and by seven o'clock the procession was in motion. About an hour later, as the caravan was ascending a hill, Van Orman observed a cloud of dust arising in the west along the trail about two miles away. He stopped his yoke of oxen and climbed to the top of his wagon to ascertain the cause. As the other wagons drove up a general alarm was given that Indians were approaching. By order of Van Orman the wagons formed into a circle and the stock driven into the enclosure.

Soon they were surrounded by about one hundred well-mounted howling warriors, accompanied by a large number of barking dogs.

Failing in their efforts to stampede and drive away the stock, the Indians feigned friendship and were permitted to approach the wagons. They begged and received food from the emigrants who were anxious to appease them in any way to avoid trouble. It was almost noon when peace was established and the train was permitted to go on its way.

Both the emigrants and the stock were suffering from thirst, as the day was quite warm, and all were anxious to reach water. It was nine miles to the nearest place to water, near the present town of Murphy, Idaho. A short distance beyond where the emigrants were first stopped by the Indians the trail wound between a number of large rocks.

The Indians, pretending to leave, went only a short distance away to

conceal their horses from sight. The savages then secreted themselves in a field of lava rock through which the train must pass.

While ascending a high plateau, "*Where many a rock was an ambuscade to shelter a skulking foe,*" the emigrants were fired on by the hidden savages. Again the wagons were formed into a protective circle for the emigrants and live stock. The wagons were again surrounded by the Indians. Gradually the savages closed in on the stockade and sent showers of arrows into the enclosure, some of which lodged in the animals' backs. The wagon covers were riddled with bullets. Before the emigrants were entrenched three of the men, Louis Lawton, William Ottley and Charles Kishnell were killed. The defenders put up a gallant fight and a number of Indians were killed. The hideous yells of the savages mingled with the sounds of barking dogs and the pitiful cries of the frightened women and children. During the hot afternoon lack of water caused a great amount of added suffering. Just at nightfall the fourth man, Judson Cressey, was killed.

The four guards, Chaffee, Snider, Shamburg and Murdock, mounted the train's best horses, and deserted at the first opportunity. On reaching the Malheur river the deserters went up Willow creek and on toward the John Day river. Two of them, Shamburg and Murdock, were killed by Indians. Chaffee returned to the ford on the Malheur where he butchered his horse and dried the meat. Snyder went on down the John Day river to the Columbia.

At the camp of the besieged emigrants the Indians kept up a random fire all night. At daybreak the battle was resumed and lasted all of the second day. About sunset the emigrants abandoned four of the wagons to the Indians, believing that would satisfy them, and attempted to move on. But instead of being content with this plunder the red demons continued the attack. Captain Otter at this point made overtures for peace, which the savages rejected. Soon after, Captain Otter, John Myers and Miss Mary Otter were killed. That night the emigrants decided to abandon the wagons and seek safety under the cover of darkness. Mrs. Otter refused to leave the bodies of her husband and her eighteen-year-old step-daughter, Mary. When Mrs. Otter declined to accompany the other emigrants, three of her children, two little girls and a boy, Emma, Abbey and Wesley, decided to remain with their mother. Seven of the emigrants now lay dead within the enclosure. Nothing is definitely known of the fate of Mrs. Otter and the three children, but, in all probability they were murdered. Elizabeth Trimble was holding her infant half-sister at the time the wagons were abandoned and she carried the baby with her. There were twenty-eight who escaped the second night of the attack: seven men, four women and sixteen children. Some of the children were too small to walk and had to be carried. Those who escaped were seven members of the Van Orman family; seven members of the Myers family; five of the Chase family; Elizabeth, Emiline and

Christopher Trimble; Charles and Henry Otter and the Otter infant who was carried by Elizabeth Trimble. Others who escaped were Gleason, Munson and the two Reith brothers.

The fugitives made their way in the darkness to the banks of Snake river where they concealed themselves in a clump of willows. The Reith brothers left the rest of the party and went for assistance. When the emigrants abandoned the wagons they took only what guns and ammunition they could conveniently carry. Mrs. Chase carried a loaf of corn-bread. This was sparingly divided among the smaller children as long as it lasted.

After Joseph and Jacob Reith decided to go on foot ahead of the main party to seek assistance, they took neither guns nor provisions. Fort Boise had been abandoned a few years before and the nearest settlement to the west was Fort Walla Walla, 340 miles away. There were thirteen Mormon families at Franklin, Idaho, the nearest settlement to the east, 280 miles distant. Instead of turning back, the Reith boys took the trail to the west, which they followed to the Malheur river. After leaving the Malheur ford at the hot springs they lost the trail and went up that river or one of its tributaries, possibly Bully creek. By missing the trail they lost seven days. Returning to the Malheur ford they found Chaffee, who had returned there from his ill-fated trip up Willow creek. Chaffee shared his horse meat with them and they located the trail. The brothers followed the trail to Burnt river and over the Blue mountains to the Indian agency on the Umatilla river. Twenty-four days after the attack, on October 2, the Reith brothers, very much exhausted, emaciated and almost nude, arrived at the Umatilla agency with first news of the tragedy to reach the outside world. During the twenty-four day march, traveling the entire distance on foot, they averaged about twelve miles a day.

The other emigrants who abandoned the wagons on the night of September 10, following the second day of the attack, remained concealed in the willows all the following day. They had a few fish hooks and the men caught some fish while the women gathered a few berries. This was all the food they had. At early dawn of the second day the Indians drove the stock to water. The herd passed down Sinker creek canyon to the Snake river near where the emigrants were hiding. The redskins appeared to be more intent on looting the wagons than looking for the refugees.

On the second night of the attack the squaws arrived and a large sagebrush fire was kindled to light up the scene of carnage. It is probable that Mrs. Otter and the three children were tortured and put to death during this night as nothing was seen or heard of them after that. This made eleven victims to die in the two-day attack. Hideous yells and howling of the savage fiends throughout the entire night kept the emigrants, hidden in the nearby willows, in constant terror as they listened to the savage revelry through the hours of darkness. After burning the wagons and everything

they could not carry away, the savages took their departure on the third morning, passing near the hiding place of the emigrants. Of their departure Miles Cannon says:

"During the forenoon of September 12th the Indians left the battle ground in triumph, and proceeded westward to the Snake river where the railroad bridge is now, and in the direction of the ford near Homedale, where they crossed the river that September morning; an Indian mounted on the back of the black stallion occupied the place of honor. The procession was a formidable one—nearly a mile in length, for in addition to about two hundred Indians, all the company stock was being driven away.

"The family horses from the eastern homes, the kindly patient oxen, the cows and calves, still guarded by the faithful shepherd dogs from the train passed on never to be seen again by their unfortunate owners in the willows hard by. Many of the animals still had arrows fastened in their sides and backs, and the shafts moved back and forth with every motion like feathered plumes. Not one article of movable apparel escaped, and bedecked like demons of darkness, these rich, haughty bedlamites moved on and out of sight; while the pioneers were compelled to hear the puny voices of sweet-faced children call for food they could not supply. Heavy as was the hand of fate, the spirit of these brave emigrants was not crushed; hope is a potent factor in the hour of peril, and it dwells in the heart of the afflicted.

"When the Grimes party was making its way into the basin in 1863 they met a party of Indians not far from the forks of Moore's creek; one of the savages was adorned with a Prince Albert Coat and a plug hat, and riding an American horse, all of which is supposed to have been taken from the emigrants at the time of the massacre."

On the night of September 12, the emigrants continued on their way down the Snake river. They traveled by night and hid under the river bank in the day time. It was not until the tenth night that they reached the emigrant ford on the Owyhee about a mile below the present highway bridge. They traveled a distance estimated to be about seventy miles from the massacre site. Greatly exhausted, weakened by the lack of food and encumbered by carrying the younger children, they could go no further. Here they camped, secreted behind a knoll, about thirty rods south of the ford. They killed and ate two dogs that had followed them. A stray cow, in very poor condition, that had given out and been left behind by a party of emigrants was also slaughtered. When this meat became exhausted they subsisted on berries, fish, frogs, jack rabbits, owls and some salmon secured from Indians by trading some of their clothing. A few blankets they had salvaged in their flight and most of their clothing was forcibly taken by other Indians.

For twelve days they were stranded at the Owyhee ford. They had no substantial food. Accounts here differ. Cannon says that Christopher Trimble, the eleven-year-old step-son of the dead Captain Otter, went out alone for help. That he found Chaffee and Munson at the hot springs on the Malheur feasting on horse flesh and bewailing their misfortune. The boy obtained some of the horse meat from Chaffee, who informed him the Reith brothers had gone on for help. Young Trimble carried the meat back to the starving emigrants on the Owyhee. This young boy made the sixteen-

mile trip from the Owyhee to the Malheur and back again on foot and unarmed. Bancroft says Munson was with the emigrants when they abandoned the wagons on the night of September 10 and that he went with the Trimble boy for help, but remained at the Malheur ford while the boy took the meat back to the emigrants on the Owyhee.

Shortly after the first of October Elizabeth Trimble and her infant sister both died. A little later the two little Chase boys died and on October 6 their father, Donald Chase, succumbed. On October 7 Alexander Van Orman and family, Samuel Gleason, and Charles and Henry Otter started out on foot from the Owyhee camp. This party, numbering ten, followed the emigrant road from the Owyhee over the sagebrush hills to the Malheur, near the present town of Vale. Chaffee and Munson had evidently gone on when the party arrived at the Vale hot springs. The Van Ormans continued along the trail past Alkali Springs, Tub Springs and along Birch creek until they came to Farewell Bend on the Snake river. A few miles further on the party was attacked by Indians. Eight of them were killed and their bodies badly mutilated. Two of the Van Orman children, a girl fourteen and a boy twelve years old, were held captives by the Indians.

From admissions made by some of the survivors found by the soldiers at the Owyhee camp and the official reports of army officers, it is evident that the Donner party were not the only emigrants who resorted to cannibalism in order to sustain their own lives. Just before resorting to this revolting extreme—according to Joseph Myers, one of the survivors—the emigrants knelt in prayer, seeking divine guidance, after which a vote was taken to determine their course. The vote for the affirmative was unanimous. An Oregon correspondent sent the following report to the *New York World*, which was published in that paper December 6, 1860:

“Letters from Fort Walla Walla, to Oregon papers, give fearful accounts of emigrants attached to the train recently attacked near Fort Boise. Captain Dent, who was ordered out on the emigrant road to investigate reports of the massacre, found twelve emigrants alive and subsisting on the bodies of their dead companions. The details of these hardships are terrible. Some died from actual starvation. Those found living were in a perfect state of nudity—having been stripped by the savages and left to perish. Mrs. Chase had fed upon the dead body of her husband. On the eve of the 27th ult., an officer with a detachment in advance of the main party, found near a small stream, the women and children naked, in a state of starvation and greatly emaciated, so much so that their bones almost protruded through their skin. The women and children on seeing the rescuers, fell upon their knees, and by the most piteous wailings, implored food. (When news reached the fort, wives of the officers purchased every description of clothing for the women and children of the train and food was rushed to them.) The survivors were Mr. Jefferys, Mr. Munson, Mr. Myers, wife and five children, Mrs. Chase and child, and Miss Trimble—twelve in all. Eight dead bodies were buried and all that were in the train were accounted for—a military post will be established on the road near old Fort Boise, and escorts will be kept in motion to meet others, recommended by the Department of Utah.”

The Jefferys mentioned in the dispatch to the *New York World* was Chaffee. According to Bancroft, Mrs. Chase did not “feed upon the dead

body of her husband," as reported to the *New York World*. Bancroft says:

"At last, in their awful extremity, the living were compelled to eat the bodies of the dead. This determination was unanimous, and was arrived at after consideration and prayer. The bodies of four children were first exhumed, and eaten sparingly to make the hated food last as long as it might. But the time came when the body of Mr. Chase was exhumed and prepared for eating. Before it had been tasted succor arrived, the relief parties from the Indian Agency and Captain Dent reaching the Owyhee, forty-five days after the attack on the Snake river."

When the Reith brothers arrived at the Umatilla Indian Agency, October 2, the Indian Agent, George H. Abbott, was absent. Agent Bryon N. Dawes, temporarily in charge, took immediate action, as shown by a letter from him to *The Dalles Mountaineer*, under date of October 3, 1860, as follows:

"On yesterday, two brothers named Reith arrived here reporting that the train to which they belonged had been attacked by Shoshone and Bannock tribes of Indians, that a large number of the emigrants had been killed, and the remainder driven away from their wagons and scattered. The men arrived here much exhausted, subsisting on some dried horse meat for twenty-four days.

"When last heard of they (emigrants) had nothing to eat. I have started some provisions to their assistance, and surely hope it will arrive in time to save them from starvation. The attack was made between Salmon Falls and Fort Boise. If yet alive my supplies should reach them on Burnt river or Goose creek."

Young Christopher Trimble was the hero of the ill-fated Otter party. Besides making the trip alone, on foot, and unarmed, to the Malheur river and back to bring the horse meat to the starving women and children, he voluntarily became a prisoner among the Indians in his efforts to procure salmon for food. Commenting on this Bancroft says:

"Young Trimble had been in the habit of visiting the Indian camp before mentioned, and one day, returning to camp, brought with him some Indians having salmon to sell. As Trimble was about to accompany them back to their village, he was asked by Myers to describe the trail, 'for' said he, 'if the soldiers come to our relief we shall want to send for you.' It was an unfortunate occurrence. At the word 'soldiers' the Indians betrayed curiosity and fear. They never returned to the white camp; but when sought they had fled, leaving the body of the boy, whom they had murdered, to the wolves."

Captain Frederick D. Dent, stationed at The Dalles, received orders on the evening of October 4, directing him to take charge of an expedition to be fitted out at Fort Walla Walla for the purpose of rescuing the survivors of the massacre. Dent's command consisted of four officers and one hundred enlisted men. One of the Reith boys accompanied the troops. The other brother, being too weak to travel, remained at the Umatilla agency.

The rescue party left Fort Walla Walla October 11, just thirty-one days after the emigrants had been driven from their wagons. The rest of this heart-rending story is best told by the official report of the army officer who rescued the survivors. Following are extracts from the official report of Captain Fred D. Dent:

"Fort Walla Walla. November 8, 1860. P. Captain. I have the honor to report for the information of the Colonel commanding the Department of Oregon, that on the evening of October 4, 1860, being at Fort Dalles, Oregon, I received from yourself Order 105, directing me to take command of an expedition to be fitted out at Walla Walla for the purpose of recovering or securing any survivors that might be of a massacre of emigrants which took place on the 9th and 10th of September, 1860, in the vicinity of Salmon Falls on Snake river.

"I left The Dalles at 12 m. on the 5th and reached this place on the 9th of October and presented Order 105, to Captain A. J. Smith, First Dragoons, then in command, who immediately ordered the organization of my command, in accordance with these orders, and so prompt was the action of all Departments that I was able to move my party to a camp on the Tumalum on the evening of the 11th of October.

"Four officers, T. Wright, agent quartermaster department, Captain Dent, Assistant Surgeon L. Taylor, Lieutenant M. A. Reno, Commander dragoons; Lieutenant R. H. Anderson, commander infantry.

"The infantry was mounted on mules. Our march was slow and the command remained together until we reached Powder river on the 17th of October. Not being satisfied with the speed we were making, I decided to scout the country forward with a strong party unencumbered, and accordingly ordered Lieutenant Reno with forty men, 1st Dragoons, and two guides, with ten mules lightly packed, to scout thoroughly the Burnt river and vicinity, the main command following it as fast as it could. On the evening of the 19th, Lieutenant Reno discovered on a small branch of Burnt river, two emigrants almost naked, without fire and starving. The names of these two men as given to me by themselves, are Civilian G. Munson and Charles M. Chaffee. Lieutenant Reno clothed them and supplied them with food, and leaving a corporal and ten men with them, he proceeded rapidly to the front.

"On arriving at the place on Burnt river where the road leaves it, and having found no trace of the remainder of the emigrants, Lieutenant Reno put in camp twenty-five of his party, and with five men and Mr. Craig, the guide, proceeded, riding day and night, to the Malheur. Having made no discoveries on the Malheur, Lieutenant Reno returned toward the Burnt river. At some point on the road finding tracks of women and children, and their trail passing over rocky ground, and the rain having fallen on it since made, it was hard to follow until they came to where the emigrant road between the Malheur and Burnt river touched Snake river. Here the trail was fresh and his hopes were aroused of speedily finding them.

"The daylight was nearly gone, but the search continued, and when he proceeded to within two miles of the camp he had left on Burnt river, he came on, at a short distance from the road, and in the sage brush a scene of horror, murder and mutilation, only to be found where the warhoop has signaled the scalping knife's deadly work. Gleaming in the moonlight, dead, stripped and mutilated, lay the bodies of eight persons. They were identified by Mr. Reith as Alexander Van Orman, his wife, Abigail Van Orman, and his son, Marcus Van Orman, Minerva Van Orman, Lucinda Van Orman, Charles Otter, Henry Otter and Samuel Gleason. Mrs. Van Orman had been whipped, scalped and otherwise abused by the murderers. Mr. Van Orman, Marcus Van Orman and Gleason had their throats cut and besides were pierced by numerous arrows. They appeared to have been dead from four to six days; the wolves had not yet molested them. I arrived immediately after at Lieutenant Reno's camp and found him absent on a scout with the guide and ten men, he having found in the vicinity of the place where the Van Ormans were killed a trail of Indians whom he supposed to be the murderers."

It was discovered that two children of the Van Ormans' were missing. They were Eliza Van Orman, age fourteen, and Reuben Van Orman, age twelve years. The trail of the Indians, who wore moccasins, was followed until it came to Snake river near where the Olds' ferry was later located. It was also discovered that two of the party were barefoot, and from the size of the tracks, it was believed they were the missing children. The fate of

these two children remains a mystery. At one time there was a rumor that Colonel Howard recovered the girl and sent her to California. But this report lacks confirmation. A boy who went by the name of Jim Doe was rescued from Indians and was believed by some to be the missing Rueben Van Orman. He may have been the boy raised by Indians and known as Mountain Jack. Jack killed two squaws he was guarding as prisoners while with Captain Standifer fighting Indians on the Malheur river in 1863. One of these squaws may have been Bigfoot's wife. Reuben Van Orman would have been about fifteen or sixteen years old at that time. Mountain Jack said the Indians had mistreated his sister and later killed her and he was determined to kill every Indian he could. As the squaws are said to have been the most brutal in torturing white prisoners this may have been Jack's motive for killing them.

The soldiers buried the eight members of the Van Orman party in one grave. The troops then went on to the Malheur and Owyhee. Captain Dent thus describes the finding of the last remaining survivors in "the camp of death" on the Owyhee:

"On the morning of the 25th of October, (1860) when enroute to the Owyhee river from the Malheur, I received an express from Lieutenant Anderson informing me that the evening before he had found on the Owyhee twelve emigrants alive and five dead; those still alive were keeping life in them by eating those who had died. I will not attempt to describe the scene of horror the camp presented, even after I reached it at 12 o'clock that day; those still alive were skeletons with life in them; their cries for food rang in our ears incessantly; food was given them every hour in small quantities, but for days the cries for food were still kept up by the children.

"An hour or two before my arrival at Lieutenant Anderson's camp, he had found the remains of Christopher Trimble, who had been murdered by the Indians; his body had been much disturbed by wolves; but sufficient remained to identify it. These remains were found a short distance beyond the Owyhee. This boy, eleven years of age, deserves special mention. He had killed several Indians in the fight. He left the fugitives and went to the Malheur, where he obtained from Chaffee some horse flesh, which he took back to the women and children; he then became a prisoner voluntarily with the Indians in order that he might get them to take salmon back to camp, which he succeeded in doing. Two weeks had elapsed since his last visit. It must have been at that time he was killed."

The ten emigrants rescued alive on the Owyhee were Joseph Myers, Mrs. Myers, and their five children, Isabella, Margaret, Eugene, Harriet and Carry Myers; Mrs. Chase and small daughter Mary, and Miss Emiline Trimble. Emiline Trimble was the only one of the eleven members of the Otter-Trimble family that escaped death. None of the Van Orman family was rescued alive. The family of Joseph Myers was the only one of the four families of the train that did not lose a member. Two men, Chaffee and Munson, found on the Burnt river, made the total number of twelve rescued by the soldiers. With Joseph and Jacob Reith and Henry Snider, the number of survivors totaled only fifteen out of the forty-four who were with the wagon train at the time it was first attacked on September 9. Eleven were killed in the first attack on the train; five died at the camp on

the Owyhee, and Christopher Trimble was murdered near the Owyhee camp. Eight others were killed and two taken captive by the Indians near Farewell Bend. Mrs. Chase married one of the soldiers of the rescue party soon after reaching Fort Walla Walla.

The soldiers did not go on to the battle ground and the eleven killed there were never buried. Settlers who later located on Sinker creek, near the scene of the tragedy, found several skulls and other human bones scattered about in the sage brush.

Colonel George Wright, in his report to the commander of the Department of Oregon, November 22, 1860, transporting the report of Captain Dent, said:

"I have learned that the party could have probably made a defense against the Indians, for they appear to have fought desperately, but for the base desertion of four or six of the men, mounted on the best animals, embraced the first opportunity to escape. Thus abandoned, the remaining men were too weak in numbers to defend the women and children. A deserter from the army, (perhaps more than one) it is said, was among the runaways."

There appears to be a question as to whether Munson was one of the deserters. Miles Cannon says:

"In my interview with the survivors, one of whom was over thirty years old at the time of the massacre, some strange freaks of memory were encountered. While every detail of the battle ground was still vivid in their minds not one had the slightest idea of what state now embraces the scene of the tragedy; not one remembered the Snake river, the name of the stream where the camp of death was located, or the distance between their camp on September 8th and the camp where they were rescued by Captain Dent. Some thought it might be seventy miles but all were of the opinion it was nearer one hundred miles. There was much uncertainty, likewise, concerning the identity of "Civilian" G. Munson, (quotation marks are mine), who appears to have been an old man at the time, and who the survivors think, must have been a member of the party and not a deserter."

Sinker creek evidently was not named until two or three years after the date of the tragedy. According to the Owyhee *Avalanche*, of Silver City, it was named after gold was discovered in 1862, or later. Miners are said to have used gold nuggets as sinkers for their fish lines when fishing in the stream, hence the name, "Sinker creek."

Captain Fredrick D. Dent, who commanded the troops that rescued the surviving emigrants, was a brother of Mrs. Julia Grant, wife of General U. S. Grant, commander-in-chief of the Union Army during the closing days of the Civil War, and who was later President of the United States.

Lieutenant M. A. Reno was in command of a detachment of General George A. Custer's troops at the battle of the Little Big Horn in Montana in 1876. At that time a major, Reno's detachment was cut off and surrounded by Indians and thereby prevented from going to the assistance of General Custer. The entire Custer command was killed by Sioux Indians under Sitting Bull, except Reno's detachment. Reno was charged with cowardice for not going to the support of Custer, but the investigation re-

vealed that he was attempting to go to Custer's relief when his troops were cut off, surrounded, and fought desperately to avoid annihilation.

MASSACRE ROCKS

About twelve miles west of American Falls, where the Oregon Trail passed along the south bank of the Snake river the road wound between two high palisades of solid lava rock. The trail here made a complete S turn in passing through this opening made by nature. At the east entrance of this gorge is located a marker that tells of an emigrant massacre that took place there on August 10, 1862. The rocky gorge of the Snake river is only a short distance away. The high projecting lava rocks through which the road passes was known to early emigrants as "The Rocks," also "Palisade Rocks." But after the massacre they became known as "Massacre Rocks," as a reminder of the early day tragedy. The Lewiston, Idaho, *Tribune* in July, 1937, gave the following account of the massacre, taken from the *Idaho Guide*:

"Past Massacre Rocks, twelve miles west of American Falls, Idaho, runs the Oregon Trail, a continental motor route now, over which thousands of tourists pass annually, unmindful of the tragedy that occurred there August 10, 1862, where a caravan of twenty-five Iowa families in ox-drawn wagons were ambushed by Indians, who killed nine, scalped six and wounded many others.

"These eleven wagons, the vanguard of many more, all of them headed uncertainly for Oregon. The ox teams moved slowly over a country that seemed immeasurable. Those who now follow this trail, made by wagons in pioneer days, traveling in automobiles, trains, or by air, find it difficult to realize, even obscurely, the thirst and weariness, the intolerable drag of the journey, week after week. The bleak sameness of earth and sky and sun. It is hard to realize that one of these ox teams was an hour covering one and a half miles, or that the short distance from American Falls to the Rocks ahead filled a large part of a day.

"The caravan had spent nearly the whole summer crossing Nebraska, Wyoming and Idaho to this point. These travelers were weary hearted, and the fabulous valley of the Oregon seemed as remote as ever. There were land marks, some of which they had passed, some of which they were now looking for in the pale distance. Without maps, without anything but a peak or a noticeable hill in a week's journey, they knew that they had come hundreds of miles, had hundreds of miles to go.

"The driver in the front wagon, sitting high on his seat, was doubtless looking ahead trying to distinguish between the blue-gray of the desert and the gray-blue of the sky. Behind him in the crawling wagons, reaching back for a quarter of a mile, were men and women sitting in stupor. With tired flesh and tired eyes were tired children who sat in these wagons, week after week, going they knew not where. Drivers gazed back over the enormously universal distance out of which they had come, wondering about the distance ahead. This was a hot day in August, without a tree in sight and with no breeze. The yellow earth was turned up by the wheels in lazy blinding clouds that rolled back from wagon to wagon and settled upon the freight until the travelers could write their names in dust an inch thick.

"The driver on the front seat was looking at the Snake river gorge, now appearing on the right, and at the blurred pile of rock ahead and was perhaps remembering that camp on that night would be pitched on bottom lands of the river. He was probably not suspicious. When he came to the crest of the hill and looked down a long slope to the pile of stone on either side of the trail, his gaze reached to the river, now a visible oasis in a landscape of scalding sun. For fifteen minutes the wagons plowed their furrows down the hill toward the bluffs.

It was not until the leader had passed into the small gorge with refreshing shadows on either side, that a sudden movement in the stones brought every man to the trigger.

"The sudden confusion and panic, the awful horror of the next few minutes, it was almost impossible to realize. The bare chronicle relates that nine were slain, six were scalped, many were injured and that a few miraculously escaped. The chronicle also disclosed that wagons were plundered and burned and that the beasts were driven off. Sixty years later a little stone monument was set up in memory of those who perished.

"Today, traveling through the desert, the modern tourist seldom stops to read the marker by the roadside at the east entrance of the gorge."

Hamilton Scott, one of the emigrants with a train that followed along the trail a few days after the massacre, reveals in a diary he kept of the trip, that other trains following behind the ill-fated Iowa party narrowly escaped a similar fate. Following are extracts from Hamilton Scott's diary:

"The train of emigrants started from near Fremont, Iowa, for the Walla Walla territory, in search of gold, on April 24, 1862. Each wagon was drawn by three yoke of oxen and one yoke of cows to a team.

"On August 7th, we reached Snake river and camped eight miles below Fort Hall. We passed through the falls (American Falls) on the 9th inst. The falls, as they call them, is a natural curiosity, the water falling some forty to fifty feet over rocks and making a great roaring noise.

"Grass was very poor but everybody had to depend on it for feed for the cattle. All our teams at that time were getting very weak and tired, as they had come so far, and some days would have to go all day without food or water.

"Up to this time we had seen but very few Indians, but had heard a great deal about them. We had met up with several emigrant trains coming westward and were traveling together. One of the men learned he had a friend in a wagon train two days ahead of us, so set out on the 8th to overtake him.

"The train camped a few miles down the river from the falls for dinner. Grass was poor and we could only stay long enough to prepare dinner and then go on until we found feed for the cattle.

"John C. Hillman, one of the men, rode ahead in search of a place with grass where we could stay over Sunday. On looking up the road he saw a horseman coming toward him in a hasty manner. It was very rare to see a person coming eastward and in such a hasty manner. He came closer and Mr. Hillman recognized him as the man who had left the train the day before. The first thing he said was, 'My God, John, the Indians have massacred a train and robbed them of all they had and they are only a short distance from here.'

"Mr. Hillman turned back to inform the train and bring up the wagons that were lagging behind. In an hour from then, or about 6 p.m., we came to the train. A quantity of blood was found, that showed the Indians had done their hellish deed in a hasty manner and left.

"The place selected for the attack was the best in the road. There was a great ledge of rocks on both sides, where the enemy could hide until the white men came near. This place is close to the road which turns down toward Salt Lake, which is about 175 miles south. It is about ten miles from the falls.

"We did not see the enemy that day, but found three white men killed and several wounded along the trail. The next day we met and the fight began. At the first shot three-fourths of the white men fled and the reds pursued, but after three miles the Indians ceased the pursuit. In the battle three white men were killed, one being scalped.

"Two more ox teams came up that night, now making two hundred wagons, four hundred men and three hundred women and children. The dead were buried next day and the train pushed on toward Walla Walla."

This massacre is said to have been committed by a band of renegade Indians under the leadership of the Bannock chief, Pocatello, whose name interpreted into English means "*The man who strayed from the road.*"

CHAPTER 7

THE LOST BLUE BUCKET MINE

*Now delves the miner deep in rock and sand and soil,
And gathers stores of shining gold—reward for patient toil.
—Anonymous.*

Ranking high in the legends of the West there is one with intrigue, mystery, death and suffering that has defied solution throughout the years. This legend concerns gold and it was born on a day in 1845 when a brother and sister carried an old oaken blue bucket in search of water. Water they found in limited quantity, but gold, the legend says, they found in fabulous amounts. This is the story of the lost Blue Bucket mine.

It began on a day in 1845 when Dr. Elijah White, Indian Agent for the Oregon Territory, who was on his way to Washington, D. C., met an Oregon-bound emigrant train, consisting of about two hundred families, at Fort Boise. Dr. White induced the emigrants to leave the established northwest trail over the Blue mountains in favor of a route more directly west along the course of the Malheur river. Stephen H. L. Meek, who had come to Fort Boise with Dr. White, was engaged as a guide to lead the train safely to the headwaters of the Deschutes river and then northward to The Dalles on the Columbia. Meek's recommendation as a competent guide was based on the fact that he had trapped for two seasons in the mountainous headlands of the Deschutes river.

Traveling generally westward the trail was marked first by the grave of one of the pioneers, Mrs. S. Chambers, who lies buried at Castle Rock, on the Winnie Scott ranch in Agency valley, near Beulah in western Malheur county. In Harney county the trail was marked by other graves and remnants of broken wagons and the skeletons of domestic animals. Somewhere in Harney county the guide, Meek, who was a brother of the distinguished Oregon pioneer sheriff and first U. S. Marshall, Joseph L. Meek, became confused and lost in finding his way over a trail that he had purportedly traveled before. Leaders of the lost wagon train held council and decided against following the guide further into the wilderness. The train wandered into the desert and some children died from drinking poisonous alkali water. Resentment ran high against Meek continuing with the train and he fled, fearing death at the hands of his former followers.

Like many other important historic events there are many different versions of the fabulous Lost Blue Bucket Mine. Some have advanced the theory that the emigrants, after burying Mrs. Chambers at Castle Rock, traveled farther to the north than is generally supposed and that the place where the gold was found was in reality Canyon creek in Grant county. Gold nuggets were found near Canyon City on that creek in 1862.

Henry Marlin, grandfather of Mrs. W. H. Brooke, of Ontario, was a member of the lost emigrant train and saw some of the Blue Bucket gold. Mrs. Brooke, wife of the prominent pioneer attorney, is the society editor of the *Ontario Argus*.

A prospecting party was organized by Californians in 1849 to search for the Blue Bucket Mine but it was compelled to turn back because of hostile Indians. In 1850 two other parties went in search of the lost mine but met with no better success.

As several years had elapsed from the time the gold was discovered before any attempt was made to go back to the place it is possible that time and the elements may have brought about a change in the ground surface in that locality. A heavy cloud burst—not infrequent in that section—may have washed down earth, or a landslide may have completely covered up all traces of gold and changed the course of the stream where the rich ore was found.

The first authentic account of the discovery of the Blue Bucket Mine was written by D. S. Clark, of Salem, and published in the *Portland Daily Bee*, February 6, 1869. This account later appeared in the *Overland Monthly*, and subsequently was quoted by H. H. Bancroft, which reads:

"The first discovery of gold made in Oregon by an American, if not any person, was near the head of the Malheur river, in a small stream divided from the Malheur by a ridge. The stream ran southwest, and was supposed to be a branch of the Malheur, an error which caused much trouble and disappointment to prospectors eight or ten years later. Daniel Herron, a cousin of W. J. Herron, was looking for lost cattle while the company was camped here, and picked up a piece of shining metal on the rocky bed of a creek. He carried it to the camp as a curiosity. No one could tell what the metal was, and no one thought of it being gold. Another nugget was found and brought to Mr. Martin's wagon, who tested it by hammering it out on his wagon-tire; but not being able to tell its nature, it was thrown into the tool-chest, and forgotten, and ultimately lost. After the discovery of gold in California these incidents were remembered, and many parties went in search of the spot where the emigrants said the gold was found, but were misled by being told it was on a tributary of the Malheur."

The following account of the finding of the Blue Bucket Mine, told by W. H. Herron, a son of the man who discovered the gold, was published in the *Portland Oregonian* in 1922, and re-published in the *Argus* of Ontario, Oregon, March 23, 1922. W. H. Herron is an uncle of Mrs. Ivan Oakes, a pioneer resident of Ontario, Vale and Burns.

"Heppener, Ore., March 4.—(To the Editor.)—Having noticed the several articles in the *Oregonian* regarding the Blue Bucket Mine, some of my friends who know that I could give an account of its discovery have urged me to do so.

"Both my father, W. J. Herron, and my mother were members of the company that Steve Meek undertook to pilot from the crossing of Snake river to The Dalles in 1845.

"Meek had trapped on the upper Deschutes at what was known as Beaver Meadows for two seasons. He claimed that he had been over the route from there to The Dalles and also from there to Boise. He said that he could guide them over a much better route than the one over the Blue mountains by way of Grande Ronde valley. He induced some thirty or forty families and their outfits to let him guide them over the road that he had described, which was by the way of Malheur and Harney lakes and then across the mountains to the Deschutes and north along the west bank of that river to The Dalles.

"But traveling over a mountainous country with a saddle horse proved to be quite different from traveling with heavily loaded wagons drawn by ox teams. They got along alright until they reached the foot of the mountains, where they found the country so rough and the hills so steep that they could not negotiate them. Meek tried to make it up several tributaries of the south Malheur, but each time had to turn back, which caused them to lose much valuable time, and as their provisions were getting quite low they became very much exasperated at Meek and finally served him with notice that unless he got them out of there within a certain length of time his life would not be worth very much. He became alarmed and skipped out and left them to their fate.

"Several of the young men who had saddle horses scouted the country over and finally found a ridge that led to the summit of the mountains. They concluded that if they could once get their outfits up on this ridge they could make it over the mountains. By hitching ten and sometimes twelve yoke of oxen at a time to a wagon they finally succeeded in getting them onto the divide.

"There was no water on the divide so they had to make a dry camp. The captain of the company told all of the young people who had saddle horses to take buckets and go hunt for water. My father, who was then twenty-three years old, and his sister, who afterward became the wife of William Wallace, took their old blue bucket and started out to find water.

"They finally found a dry creek bed which they followed until they found a place where a little water was seeping through the gravel, and while my father was digging for water his sister saw something bright and picked it up.

"The account given me states they found two good sized lumps or nuggets, and that there were many fine particles in the gravel. He was quite sure that it was gold at the time, and when he arrived at the camp he showed it to some of the older men, who told him that if it was gold it would be malleable. So one of them hammered both pieces out into saucer-shaped discs.

"Father had a tool-chest with a secret drawer in it. He hid the gold in the chest, therefore no one but the members of the family ever knew what became of it. I well remember the old tool chest with its secret drawer.

"When they reached the summit of the mountains they camped on a meadow, and while there some Warm Springs Indians came to their camp. One of the Indians could speak a little English. He told them that if some of them would go with him to a high ridge nearby they could see down into the Deschutes and Crooked river valleys. He showed them some buttes that lay south of Prineville and said they would find water there. He also showed them what is now called Pilot Butte, and told them if they would steer straight for that butte they would find a place in the bend of the river where a man could cross it on a horse, and for them to cross the Deschutes there and keep down on the west side, going by way of Metolius and Tygh valley and that they would eventually reach The Dalles.

"The Indian evidently reached The Dalles soon after they saw him for the missionaries at The Dalles sent men with provisions and teams to help the train through.

"My people have always hoped that some member of the family would eventually find the place where the gold was discovered, and many years ago my father gave me an old leather bound memorandum book, with maps and diagrams showing the water courses and giving a general description of the country. It also contained quite an account of the trip and related many of the incidents that occurred.

"My father was among the first to mine on the Feather river in California. He kept the gold found in the Blue mountains and took it to California with him and bought provisions with it at Sacramento in 1849.

"I once did some prospecting in the immediate vicinity of where the gold was found. I found some fine gold, but it was late in the fall and the ground froze so that I had to give it up. I intended to go back some time and try it over, but have never done so. Many parties have hunted for the place. In either 1855 or 1856 one of my uncles in a company with four others started for the place, but at that time the Indians were bad, and they got away with the horses and two of the party were killed by Indians.

"The account given me stated that the place where the gold was found was nearly two miles from the camp in a northerly direction, and that when they got back to camp they found that other searchers had found water in plenty much nearer to camp, so none of them went back to the place and my father and his sister were undoubtedly the only members of the party that ever saw where it came from.

"We have had many inquiries regarding the place, but have always avoided giving any definite information regarding its exact location."

Harvey W. Scott, for many years editor of the *Portland Oregonian*, compiled some very interesting anecdotes regarding the Lost Blue Bucket Mine in his *History of the Oregon Country*. Mr. Scott, when only fourteen years old, came over the Oregon Trail in the early fifties. The following is taken from Scott's *History of the Oregon Country*, in footnote No. 4, Page 344, Vol. I:

"Malheur river was the supposed place of the 'lost diggings of 1845,' and the diggings were discovered again in 1861. See *The Oregonian*, August 26, 1861; September 17, 1861."

The following paragraphs are from Scott's *History*, Vol III, pages 366-8, under the heading, "Where Was Blue Bucket?"

"Casual discovery of lumps of yellow metal, in the fall of 1845, in Central or Eastern Oregon, by members of the 'Meek's cut-off party,' gave rise to the belief, after the discovery of California gold, three years later, that the lumps were of the precious metal. A quantity of the lumps, gathered in a blue bucket by members of the pioneer train, gave rise to the name. This was probably the earliest discovery of gold on the Pacific Coast.

"In March, 1919, Tyra Allen, of Pendleton, started the discussion of the subject, 'Where Was Blue Bucket?' in a letter printed in the *Canyon City Eagle*. Numerous responses came forth in several newspapers, especially the *Portland Oregonian*. George Irvin, of Monument, Grant county, Oregon, in an article quoted in *The Oregonian* of April 23, 1919, that the discovery was made in Spanish gulch of the John Day country. 'Son of a Pioneer,' writing in that newspaper of April 25, 1919, said the discovery occurred probably on a tributary of the John Day river. He wrote:

"The party proceeded for a number of days, crossing a divide separating the valley of the Malheur from either Silvies river or John Day river, and somewhere near the end of this digression encampment was made on a small stream (more probably a tributary of the John Day river). Either while fishing in this stream or while taking water therefrom for camp purposes, numerous pieces of yellow metal were found in the stream bed or grass roots, the character of which was debated, and tests were made by hammering the nuggets into different forms on wagon tires.

"The father of this writer was a member of the pioneer party. Mrs. Ruth Herron Leonard, of Dayton, Washington, whose father was also a member of the party, quoted him in the *Oregonian* of April 26, 1919, as giving the place as Tygh valley; but this information lacks credence because the party seems not to have entered Tygh valley, but to have turned northward to the Columbia river without crossing the Deschutes river. W. W. Oglesby, of Cottage Grove, Oregon, wrote in *The Oregonian*, May 1, 1919, that the place of discovery was in the waters of the John Day river. After the discovery, wrote Mr. Oglesby, the party spent two days reaching Farewell Bend on the Deschutes river, where the party turned north to

the Columbia. C. C. Applegate, writing from Klamath Falls in *The Oregonian* of May 6, 1919, leaned to the belief that the discovery was made in the region of Steen mountain.

"The place of the Blue Bucket episode is scattered over a wide variety of opinions, and may never be known. Fifteen years later the placer diggings of Eastern Oregon began an activity that produced large findings of gold, especially in the John Day country. The frequency of gold nuggets in the beds of streams makes the blue bucket story not merely credible, but in connection with the many authentic versions of the story, places it beyond question of doubt.

"The compiler is indebted to George H. Hines, Washington Territory pioneer of 1853, curator of the *Oregon Historical Society*, for the following narrative of the blue bucket episode:

"It is not easy to fix the date when the name 'Blue Bucket Mine' came into use. It certainly was as early as 1868, for it is positively known that Stephen H. Meek, the leader of the party of emigrants in 1845 over the route afterward referred to as 'Meek's cut-off,' conducted thirty men that year along that trail in search of the mine of the name, without success.

"According to a statement given by William H. Helm many years ago, whose father, mother, five brothers and one sister and himself were members of the party, 'blue bucket' originated in this way: The Helm wagons, yokes and many of the camp utensils, including several buckets, were painted blue. At one camp on a tributary of the John Day river, numerous small yellow pebbles were found along the water's edge and among the grass roots. An attempt was made to catch some fish, but the current being very swift, the effort failed. Then W. G. TVault, Thomas R. Cornelius and James Terwillinger, the latter a blacksmith, conceived the idea of using one of the bright pebbles, and, finding it soft, pounded it thin and used it as a sinker on the fish line. Others did the same. At one of the camps where an experience of this kind occurred here related, two blue buckets were abandoned, the Helm family having no further use for them.

"None of the company had any idea it was gold at that time. Their minds were fully occupied by their efforts to get out of the wilderness, as their situation was very serious. At length the party reached The Dalles and went down the Columbia river on rafts. All settled in the Willamette valley.

"It will be remembered that gold was discovered in California January 24, 1848, by John Marshall, an Oregon pioneer of 1844. News of this discovery reached the Willamette valley in July following. Soon afterwards a number of adults of the Meek party went to the California mines, and they then believed the 'pebbles' that had been used for sinkers on fish lines were gold.

"Mr. Helm went to the vicinity of Canyon City in 1863, soon after gold was discovered that year, and always insisted that there, or in the region near there, was the locality where the gold was found in 1845. That was the opinion of Thomas R. Cornelius also, who, at the time of my first acquaintance with him in 1866, was one of the substantial citizens of Washington county, Oregon."

Regarding the statement of Mrs. Ruth Herron Leonard, herein quoted, that her father, W. H. Herron, had said the gold was found in Tygh valley, I refer to his closing paragraph in his lengthy statement, in which he says: "We had many inquiries regarding the place, but have always avoided giving any definite information regarding its exact location."

A man named Adams claimed to have been a member of the lost wagon train that went through the then unexplored region and that he had seen the place where the gold was found. He told of the adventure one day on the streets of Portland. Some California miners became interested and a large party was organized with Adams as guide to go in search of the Blue Bucket Mine. They "back-traced" the trail from The Dalles to the Deschutes river and up that stream to the desert region. It appears that Adams' knowledge of the country was no better than that of Meek, who had at-

tempted to guide the emigrants that discovered the gold. Adams appears to have been a sort of "blowhard," or boaster. Strangely analogical to the adventures of Meek, when Adams became confused and unable to follow the trail, the prospectors refused to follow his leadership further and turned toward the headwaters of the Malheur and Burnt rivers. Although they refused to follow Adams' leadership they still insisted upon his finding the lost mine and threatened him with death should he fail. Adams failed and attempted an escape. He was tried by a kangaroo court and sentenced to death should he fail to find the lost mine in another day. After his failure some of the more conservative members of the party intervened in his behalf. It was agreed that he should be deprived of all his belongings, except the clothes he was wearing, and to travel alone on foot back to Portland. Threats were made that he would be shot on sight, but again he was secretly protected by some of the more conservative members of the party until he reached home.

Most of the prospectors returned to Portland over the route they had come, while a few others traveled northeast toward the old emigrant road, and continued prospecting along the way. They occasionally found prospects, but it was not until they came to a gulch near Elk creek in what is now Baker county, that they found pay dirt. In this gulch on October 23, 1861, one of the prospectors, Henry Griffin, discovered gold in paying quantities. The gulch became known as Griffin's gulch. Twenty-two other claims, one hundred feet square, were staked out and the choice of ownership decided by lot. A ditch was dug from Elk creek to supply water for working the claims.

The party then departed for Walla Walla over the Oregon Trail and from there most of them went on to the Willamette valley. Four of the party, Griffin, Littlefield, Schriver and Stafford, secured provisions and returned to the recently discovered mines, where they built a cabin and spent the winter. This first winter spent in Baker county by white men was noted for its severity; snow fell to a depth of three feet. In mid-winter Littlefield and Shriver made a trip to Walla Walla to secure gum boots and other mining supplies. They took with them about a hundred dollars in gold dust, which was purchased by Orlando Humanson, of The Dalles, and sent on to Portland. This incident started a mining boom.

By April, 1862, miners began flocking to the newly discovered gold fields of Eastern Oregon. Many valuable nuggets were found and as much as \$150 was realized from one pan of dirt. The mining town of Auburn was soon founded. Miners came from as far away as California to the "diggins." The year following the founding of the town of Auburn, a rich strike was made in Mormon basin and gold was also discovered at Canyon City. In 1865 gold was found on upper Willow creek, where Eldorado, the first town in Malheur county, came into existence in 1868.

In 1863 another prospecting expedition started out from Auburn looking for the lost Blue Bucket Mine. At Canyon City it was joined by other prospectors. Southwest of Canyon City the trail made by the lost emigrant train was followed to near the head of a stream, but the prospectors were unable to determine whether it was the Malheur or Silvies river. They came to a place that answered the general description of the location given by the lost emigrants of 1845, but found no trace of the yellow metal. Two graves and some old wagon tires were located on a high hill to which was given the name of Wagontire mountain. Indians stole the prospectors' horses and they had to make the return trip on foot, leaving behind some of their equipment which they were unable to carry. Many years later my brother, Fred Gregg, came across some old wagon tires and other traces of the old emigrant trail while looking for the lost mine, but he found no traces of gold.

The last purported re-discovery of the lost Blue Bucket Mine was in the autumn of 1891, in the northern part of Harney county. An old prospector named White spent several months of that year retracing the trail made by the lost emigrant train west from Agency valley. After putting in about six months prospecting he reported finding the lost mine in what is known as Peter Mortimer canyon, a little over a day's travel west of Castle Rock. White claimed to have panned out as much as two ounces of gold from ten pans of dirt.

Rumors soon spread of rich deposits of gold being found in three nearby gulches on Salt creek, northeast of Harney City. Many prospectors came from near and far to stake out claims on Soldier, Rattlesnake, Coffee Pot and Cow creeks. Much mining excitement continued throughout the winter, but soon died out in the spring, as gold in paying quantities was not uncovered.

A rich discovery of gold was reported in 1902 in Road canyon on lower Willow creek in Malheur county. Parties from Boise, Ontario, Vale, Payette, Weiser, Huntington and other localities staked out mining claims. George A. Wright, James H. Farley, P. F. Callery and C. C. Clay located a claim to which they gave the name of Blue Bucket. Like the alleged discovery of the Blue Bucket Mine in Harney county, the Willow creek mines were soon abandoned. Some gold seekers are still looking for the lost Blue Bucket mine, but the fabulous lost mine has never been rediscovered.

In 1902, Harney county experienced another brief mining excitement of a different nature, in which some citizens of Malheur county became greatly interested. The excitement was created by the reported finding of a diamond field in the Crane creek vicinity. In September of that year R. S. Rutherford, of Ontario, and Bert Mumford, of the C. B. & Q. Railroad Company, while prospecting for fire clay in that locality, reported the finding of a diamond mine. The ground formation where they were prospecting was composed of a great amount of decomposed porphyry, believed to contain

such precious stones as diamonds, sapphires, topaz and moonstones. One stone said to be a sapphire, valued at \$100, was taken east by Mr. Mumford to be tested. The two men filed on two sections of land in the immediate vicinity, after which Mr. Mumford went east to his home in Beatrice, Nebraska, to organize a company with a capital stock of \$5,000,000 to develop the property, according to the *Ontario Argus* of September 13, 1902.

On the same date the *Argus* published another item, which read:

"J. D. Billingsley returned Wednesday from a trip to Harney county. Mr. Billingsley has made what he considers a valuable diamond location. He brought home with him a number of specimens which he will have tested."

The purported discovery of the Harney diamond field proved groundless and again the mining excitement soon died out.

CHAPTER 8

VIGILANTES PRESERVE THE PEACE IN MINING TOWNS

*Sweet Auburn! lovliest village of the plain,
Where health and plenty cheered the laboring swain,
Where smiling spring its earliest visits paid,
And parting summer's lingering bloom delayed.*

*These were thy charms, sweet village! Spots like these,
With sweet succession, taught e'en toil to please;
These round thy bowers their cheerful influence shed;
These were thy charms; but all thy charms have fled.*

—Oliver Goldsmith.

The summer of 1862 witnessed a rush to the newly discovered gold fields in Eastern Oregon. The next year gold was discovered on Canyon creek, in Grant county, Oregon, and on Salmon river in Idaho. Many California miners, bound for the new mines on Salmon river, stopped at Auburn. By autumn of 1862 it was estimated there were between 5,000 and 6,000 miners in and around Auburn, the first Eastern Oregon boom town.

As always the case in new mining booms, a rough and lawless element came with the rush. Where there is no law, or organized rules of society to cope with the situation, the lawless element feel no restraint in trampling on the rights of others. Consequently robberies and bloodshed became

frequent occurrences. At that time all of Eastern Oregon and part of Idaho was a part of Wasco county—with the county seat at The Dalles—265 miles from Auburn. The new mining town had no local government or peace officers. The nation was then in the throes of Civil War and the issues of that bloody conflict were frequently the subject of bitter discussion between Northern and Southern sympathizers, which many times resulted in tragedy.

One night a miner was killed in his tent by his partner. The slayer justified his act on the grounds of self-defense. After some discussion among the miners it was decided that the murderer should be turned over to the authorities at The Dalles. Two men volunteered to take the guilty man to the county seat, and fifty dollars was subscribed among the miners to defray the expenses of the trip. The prisoner and his guards never reached The Dalles and all three were reported to have been seen later mining on the Salmon river.

A few months later when a more shocking homicide occurred the miners decided on a more direct course of action. Two recent arrivals from Colorado were found one morning to be suffering from strychnine poisoning after partaking of their breakfast. One was saved from death by the prompt action of a physician, but the other man was beyond medical aid and died in agony. An investigation revealed that a Frenchman, who had accompanied the two men from Colorado, had quarreled with both of them and had threatened them. The strychnine was found to have been administered to the victims in flour from which their bread was made.

A kangaroo court was organized, consisting of a judge and two associate justices; a sheriff was named; two attorneys were appointed to prosecute the case and two attorneys to represent the defendant. Sidney Abbell was chosen judge, James McBride and W. H. Packwood associate justices; George Hall, sheriff; Shaw & Kelley, attorneys for plaintiff; and Pierce & Grey for the defendant. A jury was chosen, who upon hearing the testimony, returned a verdict of guilty, and the Frenchman was hanged. The trial was conducted in legal form and in an orderly manner. Speaking of this trial by the vigilantes, Hiatt, the Baker county historian, says:

"The ability and integrity of the court and officers could not be questioned. The whole business from first to last was conducted with a deliberation, dignity and fairness worthy of any tribunal organized in a strictly legal form. Had the same men been selected for their several positions by the same constituency at a regular election and all the formalities of the law been observed throughout, their actions in the matter could not have been different, and had there been a legally constituted government with officers at hand to enforce the law, they would have been the last men in the community to attempt to assume charge of the affair in any manner in the least infringing upon the prerogative of the proper officers."

In November, 1862, a gambler known as Spanish Tom, fatally stabbed two men, Desmond and his partner, following a dispute over a card game. While attempting to escape, Tom was captured in Mormon basin, brought back to Auburn, tried by a kangaroo court and convicted. In this instance,

unlike the other orderly trial and execution, some of the more radical members of the vigilantes exhibited the mob spirit, and after the jury returned a verdict of guilty wrested the prisoner from the sheriff and his deputies. The mob was dragging the Spaniard down the street toward a tree to swing him up, when his head struck a log, which proved fatal. The lifeless body was dragged on to the tree and strung up.

It is worthy of note that in both cases of these illegal executions the lawless element of the town clamored with the vigilantes to send the prisoner to The Dalles and let the law take its course. Those who up to that time had shown such little respect for right and justice suddenly became the champions of law and order. After the second of the two executions, which was the last in Auburn by the vigilantes, the lawless element packed up and took their departure, most of them going to Idaho and Montana. No further trouble of this nature occurred at Auburn, which soon became one of the most peaceable mining towns in the west. The work of the vigilantes had brought about the desired results. There were a few executions by the vigilantes during the pioneer mining days at Canyon City and many more in Idaho and Montana mining towns.

In the Shasta mining district, embracing Eldorado, Malheur City and upper Willow creek, the death penalty was never inflicted by the vigilantes, although an organization existed there. The only evidence of vigilante activity in Malheur county was the incident where members of the Payette Committee of Safety broke up an outlaw band at Washoe ferry. In 1864 a number of horses valued at about \$2,000 were stolen in the Payette valley and ferried across Snake river at Washoe ferry. Vigilantes pursued and caught them near La Grande where three of the horse thieves were killed and a fourth wounded. At that time the Payette valley was part of Ada county, of which Boise is the county seat.

During the winter of 1864-65 an effort was made to force the disbandment of the Committee of Safety. Between thirty and forty members were arrested and taken to Boise City for trial. Boise City businessmen engaged counsel and secured their release. The vigilante organization was not disbanded and the farmers of Payette valley were not further troubled with horse thieves. Some outlaws who committed the horse stealing were members of the notorious Plummer gang.

One thing can be said in favor of the vigilantes; they did their work thoroughly. Their activities were not the acts of ungovernable mobs. They had their own courts and anyone charged with crime was given a fair trial by judge and jury. To their credit it must be said they seldom made a mistake in their deliberations and very few, if any, accused of crime falsely, suffered at their hands. Nor was there the least possibility of a criminal escaping justice through a legal technicality.

Besides William Packwood I have known only one other of the pio-

neers who had been a member of this organization of honorable men.

I surmise there were others of my early acquaintances who had been members of that amiable and resolute organization. The vigilante courts kept their records like a legal tribunal. Some members of the courts may not have been very well versed in law, but they were all strong for justice and acted accordingly.

Baker county was created in 1862 and Auburn was named as the county seat. In November of that year, after the last execution by the vigilantes, the first officials of the county assumed office. However, it was June, 1863, before the first term of court was held at Auburn. George W. Hall, vigilante sheriff, was chosen as the first sheriff of the county. William Packwood was the first county school superintendent. Miss I. A. O'Brien, who later became the wife of William Packwood, taught the first school in the county at Auburn—a subscription school. Miss O'Brien raised money by popular subscription to build a log school house, and the one-room school was opened in the fall of 1862 with about fifty pupils in attendance.

Molly, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Packwood, was the first child born in Auburn. She became the wife of Charles F. Hyde, who later served as district attorney of Baker and Malheur counties when these two counties comprised the Sixth Judicial District. Molly's younger sister, Edith, married John L. Rand, who also served Baker and Malheur counties as district attorney, and later represented the two counties in the state senate. Judge Rand has for many years served as a member of the State Supreme Court.

The cost of living in Auburn was very high because provisions had to be transported into the camp by freight wagons and pack animals. In 1862 wild grass hay sold in Auburn at from \$50.00 to \$60.00 a ton. That year William Baldock cut hay with a scythe and handled it with forked sticks as pitchforks. By this means he was able to support his family and accumulate about \$400.00 above his living costs. In the spring of 1863, Joseph Kennison plowed the first furrow in Baker county. He planted the potatoes, corn and oats that year to become the county's first agriculturalist.

Among the many inconveniences of the early days there were no mail facilities closer than Walla Walla. All mail brought into Auburn was conveyed by an express company. The price of conveying a letter from Walla Walla to Auburn was one dollar. In 1862-63 newspapers sold for one dollar a copy. The latter part of 1863 the price for newspapers and for the delivery of letters was reduced to fifty cents each.

When I came to Ontario in 1886 twenty-five cents was the smallest change made at stores in exchange for commodities. But there was no discrimination in the matter. For instance, if there was 15 cents in change coming to the customer, the clerk would give him 25 cents. If there was only 10 cents due the customer did not expect or ask for it. It was a matter of

equity brought about by the scarcity of small change or "chicken-feed," in the country. Nickles and dimes were a scarcity and a penny was a rarity. I recall an incident that occurred in the W. L. Geary store in Ontario when a member of the Missouri colony, who had recently arrived, was making a purchase. E. H. Test was waiting on the customer. The merchant put the money in the till and turned to wait on another customer when the irate Missourian demanded ten cents in change.

"I haven't ten cents to give you," replied the merchant in a causal, matter-of-fact way.

"Well, I haven't ten cents to give you, either!" hotly retorted the late arrival from "the show me state."

A friend who had accompanied "the new-comer," and was more familiar with western ways, took the irate Missourian in hand and explained to him the general custom of the country in such matters. The recent arrival sheepishly picked up his bundles and walked out of the store.

In 1863 rich deposits of gold were discovered on Powder river and the first house was built on the site of Baker City. In 1864 the town of Baker assumed form. The mines around Auburn began to decline about the time Baker developed into a thriving mining town. In 1866, by a vote of the residents of the county, the seat of county government was removed from Auburn to Baker, and Auburn, the first mining town in Eastern Oregon, like the "Sweet Auburn" of Goldsmith's poem, became a "deserted village." So passed the first town in Baker county, that flourished in the early Sixties.

E. D. Pierce, an old time trader among Indians, was the first to report discovery of gold on the Clearwater river in Northern Idaho in 1858. Father De Smet, the Catholic missionary, is said to have known there was gold in that locality at a much earlier date. In 1860, when Pierce visited Walla Walla, he announced his discovery and accompanied by ten men, he returned to prospect the Clearwater. Gold was found on Nez Perce Indian land. Under dual protest by the Indians and army officers, the prospectors returned to Walla Walla without attempting to develop the mines. In November, Pierce with thirty-three men, again invaded the Nez Perce country in search for gold. A detachment of dragoons followed the prospectors as far as the Snake river to prevent their intrusion upon the Nez Perce reservation, but failed to carry out these intentions. Through cooperation of the friendly chief, Lawyer, the Indians consented to the white men mining on their property.

A mining town of log houses, to which was given the name of Pierce City, in honor of the man who first reported the gold find, was located on Ora Fino creek. A treaty was negotiated with the Nez Perce and soon there were three hundred miners working in that vicinity. Ora Fino, another mining town, soon sprung up near Pierce City and soon there were 3,000 miners in that locality. Supplies for the mines were brought up the

Columbia river to the mouth of the Clearwater, and in June, 1861, a road was built from there to Pierce City. Later richer mines were found on the headwaters of the Salmon river and miners came pouring into that region from as far away as California. Other new mining towns sprung up, including Florence and Elk City. In October the town of Lewiston, named for Merriwether Lewis, the explorer, was laid out and a steamboat landing was built on the Snake river at the mouth of the Clearwater. All these towns, including Lewiston, were located on the Nez Perce reservation. By that time the mining population, nearly all of whom were men, had increased to 5,000.

In the summer of 1862, a party of prospectors left Auburn to search for the Blue Bucket mine. They traveled southeast along the Oregon Trail until they came to the Snake river near the mouth of the Owyhee. At this point, instead of turning west over the known trail, they went on south until they came to Sinker creek, where the party divided.

In July, eleven of the party under the leadership of George Grimes, returned to the Snake river near the mouth of the Boise river. They built a canoe in which they crossed Snake river and went up the Boise river to the present site of the city of Boise. Going up Boise canyon and Moore's creek they became the first white men to enter the Boise basin and the first to discover gold in that thirty-mile-square rich gold producing valley. While in the basin they were attacked by Indians at a place since known as Grimes' Pass. After the savages were repulsed they were pursued by Grimes, Wilson, Splawn and a Portuguese. In a running fight Grimes was killed, but not until after he mortally wounded the Indian who slew him. The party, being too small to further resist the Indians, temporarily abandoned their claims. They left for Walla Walla taking between \$4,000 and \$5,000 in gold dust.

A company of over fifty prospectors was organized and soon returned to the Idaho basin. It met another party of about sixty miners headed for the basin. Although an attempt was made to keep the new gold find a secret the news leaked out and there was a general rush for the Boise basin gold mines. The first mining camp was located on Grimes' creek and was named Pioneer City. It was also known as Fort Haynes. Owing to the selfishness of some of those who first came into the district, the camp was nicknamed "Hog'um" by those who came later. Among the leading mining camps later founded were Idaho City, Placerville, Centerville and Rocky Bar.

The killing of Grimes and other Indian depredations led to the organization of a volunteer company of miners at Placerville under the leadership of Captain Standifer. This company pursued some of the savages to Salmon Falls on the Snake river where, in a pitched battle, fifteen Indians were killed and others wounded. Returning from this trip Standifer organized another company of about one hundred miners. John Hailey, in his *History of Idaho*, says that about March 1, 1863, these miners under

the leadership of Standifer as captain, and a half-breed named Greenwood as lieutenant, left Idaho City bent upon exterminating the Indian marauders.

The miners first encountered the savages on Moore's creek. One of them was wearing a plug hat and swallow-tail coat and was riding a valuable horse believed to have been taken in the Sinker creek massacre. Another battle was fought in which volunteers killed eighteen Indians. The savages had stolen all the livestock on the Beaver Dick ranch at Warm Springs and taken it across the Snake river. Before reaching the river, about ten of the volunteers turned back to the basin. The main body continued in pursuit of the Indians. They crossed the river at old Fort Boise.

After crossing, the volunteer forces divided. Captain Standifer with forty-five men went up the Malheur, while the others under Lieutenants Greenwood and Thatcher went up the south side of the Snake as far as the Bruneau. Near Salmon Falls they discovered a band of Indians in the process of swimming about eighty head of horses across the river from the north bank. The volunteers opened fire, but the Indians succeeded in turning the horses back.

Bigfoot was the leader of the Indians and this was the first time his tracks were discovered and measured by white men. The measurement revealed that his feet were $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length and six inches wide. Up to this time the renegade, Bigfoot, was unknown to the white inhabitants. There was a difference of opinion among the men who first discovered his tracks and a discussion arose as whether the tracks had been made by a man or wild beast. A few years later he became well known as the leader of a desperate band of Piute horse thieves and pillagers.

Captain Standifer and his men encountered another band of the Indian thieves somewhere on the Malheur or one of its tributaries. It has been said they killed nearly all the Indians, including women and children, and that only three boys escaped. This was denied by the volunteers. One of Standifer's men said they killed fourteen warriors, but the women and children were not harmed. One small boy and a girl were taken to Idaho City, where the boy was given to John Kelley, a celebrated violinist, and the girl was given to a woman. Another miner said two squaws were taken prisoner and later killed by a guard. The guard, young and rather queer, was known only as Mountain Jack. When a boy, Jack had been captured and reared by Indians. His motive for the double slaying was that his sister had been outraged and killed by Indians.

The stolen stock had been driven away before Standifer and his men attacked the Indian camp. After a campaign of two months the volunteers returned to the Idaho basin.

The statement of the two miners regarding the killing of the squaws and the carrying away of the boy and girl coincides with Bigfoot's dying statement that Jeff Standifer's men killed his wife and carried away his

young son. According to Hailey, Kelly, the violinist, taught the Indian boy many tricks and he became a noted contortionist. Kelly exhibited him in many parts of the world, including England and Australia. It would appear from the above statements that Chief Bigfoot's son was this famous contortionist.

I am indebted to Mrs. A. M. Lackey for a story with pathos and comedy that dovetails into the above incidents. It was first related by John Benson, son of the first ferryman to aid Johnathan Keeney in operating the Riverside ferry. According to Benson, Mrs. Keeney requested the volunteers, when they first crossed the river at her husband's ferry, to bring her an Indian servant girl upon their return. Benson maintained that the Indian girl was left with Mrs. Keeney at the ferry. Some time later a stranger with his small son stopped at the ferry and remained for several days. This man tried to persuade Mrs. Keeney to give him the Indian girl. Mrs. Keeney at first refused, but finally a deal was made wherein the man agreed to purchase the girl. Having no money, the transient agreed to leave his son as hostage until he could return and redeem the boy by paying the price agreed upon.

A few days after the departure of the man and girl the boy ran away and hid among some willows on the river bank. A rowboat appeared in the river and picked up the fugitive. This incident could hardly be classed as black or white slavery; perhaps it could be classed as red slavery. At any rate the slave trader failed to collect the price agreed upon for the Indian girl servant.

Jonathan Keeney established the first store in Placerville in Boise basin in 1862 and opened the Riverside ferry in 1863, the year the miners went in pursuit of the Indians. From Benson's story it appears that the girl was left at the ferry and not taken to the Basin.

Henry Plummer, leader of the Plummer gang, was sheriff of Bannock county, Montana, one of the rich mining districts. In this capacity he was generally advised when rich consignments of ore were to be shipped out. Plummer imparted this information to his robber gang. Plummer's deputies were members of the gang and so were easily overpowered.

The name "road agent" was first applied to stage robbers when the outlaws, posing as stage company agents, would appear at isolated stage stations and require the hostlers to supply them with fresh horses. With the new mounts they would hold up a stage at a convenient place with a much better chance to escape than with jaded horses.

In Idaho and Montana the vigilantes had a well organized membership of about one thousand. The Plummer gang was also well organized. They had a secret council-room in Bannock City where they met to plot their crimes. The gang's pass-word was "Innocent." In December, 1863, and January, 1864, twenty-one outlaws were hanged by the vigilantes at Virginia

City, Montana. In January, 1864, there were twenty-two other executions in different parts of Montana by vigilantes and many undesirables were banished from mining camps. It has been estimated that at least two hundred criminals were hanged by vigilantes in Idaho and Montana between 1861 and 1866. Henry Plummer was hanged by the Bannock City vigilantes along with others of his gang early in 1864.

In the winter of 1864-65 the price of flour in Idaho City was one dollar a pound. Riots followed, in which merchants were threatened, and the price was reduced to fifty cents. On May 18, 1865, most of the business part of the town was destroyed by fire started by members of the mob. In July, 1865, F. J. Patterson, a gambler, killed Sumner Pinkham, a respectable citizen. About that time some of the lawless element threatened to burn Idaho City, which had been almost wiped out the winter before by fire of incendiary origin. The sheriff of Boise county appears to have been of the Henry Plummer stripe and selected a grand jury that refused to indict the gambler. Following these incidents C. S. Kingley, a Methodist preacher, called a mass meeting which resulted in the organization of a vigilante committee. Preparations were under way to execute the murderer when Sheriff James T. Crutcher rallied the rough element and, in order to avoid a conflict, Patterson was permitted to leave town. He went to Walla Walla but fate overtook him there in the person of a vigilante who followed him and shot him. Two other murderers narrowly escaped hanging by vigilantes in the Boise basin.

Ada county was created from Boise county in December, 1864, with Boise City as the county seat. D. C. Updyke was named the first sheriff. In April, 1866, John C. Clark, a gambler, was arrested for the murder of Reuben Raymond in a dispute over an account, and placed in the guard house at the Boise Barracks. In the night Clark was taken from the guard house by vigilantes and hanged. Sheriff Updyke turned out to be another Sheriff Plummer. He had not been in office long when he was detected misappropriating county funds and was forced to resign. Ada county, as well as Boise county, was at the time controlled by lawless elements and Updyke was not indicted. Besides his crooked dealings while in the sheriff's office it was discovered that Updyke belonged to a band of highwaymen operating between Boise and Salt Lake. He was implicated in two stage robberies; one within six miles of Boise City, in which a passenger was wounded; and another in Portneuf canyon near Fort Hall, in which the driver was killed. Four days after the gambler, Clark, was hanged by vigilantes, David C. Updyke, the ex-sheriff, and Jacob Dickson were hanged by vigilantes.

Prospectors continued to look for the lost Blue Bucket mine. A party of twenty-nine men started out from Placerville in the spring of 1863 in search of the fabulous "lost diggins." After crossing the Snake river near the mouth of the Boise river, instead of further following the emigrant road,

they turned south until they came to Reynolds creek, which was named for one of the prospectors, A. J. Reynolds. Up to this time the source of the Owyhee river was unknown to white men, but was supposed to be somewhere in Oregon, instead of Nevada. Two of the prospectors, H. R. Wade and A. J. Miner, ascended the high mountains to the west. They observed that formation of the country indicated that a river of some size was beyond this divide, but were not certain what stream it was. The next day they continued in the direction of the unknown water course until they came to a small stream where they started prospecting. On May 18 they located the first mine in the Owyhee mining district to which they gave the name of Discovery Bar. The Owyhee mining district soon became famous. Many miners flocked in when rich silver-bearing ore was discovered.

Michael M. Jordan, another of the twenty-nine prospectors, discovered gold on Jordan creek. The creek, valley and town of Jordan Valley were, in that order, named for him. Booneville was the first mining camp to be established on Jordan creek. Ruby City was located on the creek a short time later. In December, 1863, Silver City was laid out in a better location, where the valley was a little wider, about a mile above Ruby City.

A great deal of interest was taken by miners in the Owyhee district, said at that time to be second in mining importance in the United States. Governor Gibbs, of Oregon, ordered a survey to determine the source of the Owyhee river and also establish whether the mines were in Oregon or the newly established Territory of Idaho. The survey determined that the source of the Owyhee was in Nevada and the silver mines were in Idaho.

About the first of August a stockman was killed in Jordan valley by Indians who drove off his horses and cattle. Michael Jordan headed a party of twenty-one miners who went in pursuit of the marauders. They came upon the Indians in a deep canyon in the Owyhee breaks about eighty miles west of Jordan valley. The Indians greatly outnumbered the miners and the white men were repulsed after Jordan was killed and two other miners wounded. After receiving his fatal wound Jordan implored his men to leave him to his fate and make their escape while they yet had a chance to save their own lives, which they did. Upon news reaching the mines of Jordan's death another party of 160 miners went in pursuit of the thieves. Colonel Maury, with twenty-five soldiers from the Boise Barracks, joined in the pursuit. Captain Curry, with 134 cavalymen hastened from Camp Alvord to the Owyhee. These troopers had had but little rest since June 22. Most of them were ill and their horses were worn out. Indian scouts reported the savages had fled to Nevada.

After a brief rest, with the sick only partly recovered, Curry went in pursuit of the fugitives. Five Piute Indians, believed to be members of the band that had killed both the stockman and Jordan, were captured in Pueblo valley. The soldiers were preparing to execute them when some of

the local miners interceded in behalf of the Piutes. The miners believed their own lives would be more secure if mercy was shown the captives. After their release the five Piutes, with others, later returned to the valley and murdered the miners, whose pleas for mercy had saved the savage lives. The notorious renegade, Bigfoot, in his dying confession admitted he was the leader of the Indian stock thieves that killed Michael Jordan.

On February 3, 1863, Sherlock Bristol, and Thomas and Frank Davis built a log cabin near the Boise river and cultivated a vegetable garden that was later included in the Boise townsite. In June, 1863, John A. O'Ferrell and wife built a log cabin within the original townsite of Boise. The O'Ferrell cabin still stands near Memorial Park and is the oldest building in the city of Boise.

Many gold seekers flocking to Clearwater, Salmon river and Boise basin mines so greatly increased the population that a movement was started to organize a new territory. On March 3, 1863, Congress passed an act creating Idaho Territory, naming Lewiston as the territorial capitol.

In June, 1863, Major Pickney Lugenbeel with a company of U. S. cavalry arrived from Fort Walla Walla and pitched camp on an island in the Boise river, about a mile down stream from the present center of the city of Boise. The island has since been known as Government Island. On July 5, Major Lugenbeel selected a site for an army post and put men to work erecting the Boise Barracks of native brownstone, which was the beginning of the city of Boise. At that time the town consisted of two log cabins, a small adobe house and some tents. On July 7, the Boise townsite was surveyed and plotted by Carl Jacobs and H. C. Riggs. A townsite company, numbering seventeen members was organized, some of whom were army officers at the fort. Sherlock Bristol, owner of one-ninth of the town lots, was chosen president of the company.

A stage line between Boise and Auburn was established and on August 1, 1863, a stage station was established on the north side of the Payette river, about twelve miles from the river's mouth, that took the name of Payetteville. Sometime thereafter Falk's store was established near the south bank of the Payette in the same locality, not far from the present town of New Plymouth. Until about 1883 Falk's store and post office was a trading post for most of the settlers in the eastern part of Malheur county. McFarland's store and post office was down the valley a short distance below Falk's store.

Ada county was created in 1864 and in December of that year Boise was made the county seat. The same year the territorial capital of Idaho was moved from Lewiston to Boise. At that time the Boise community, numbering only 1,658 citizens, became the metropolis of the new territory.

About the time the first settlers located in Boise, a settlement was started at Emmettville, near the head of the Payette valley. In 1864 Emmettville

became a trading post on the main route between Walla Walla and the Boise basin. The place was originally called Martinville, for Nathaniel Martin, the first postmaster. In 1870 the name was changed to Emmettville for the oldest son of Thomas D. Callahan, who had been appointed postmaster that year. In 1885 the name was shortened to Emmett. Emmettville was the first sawmill town in this section and lumbering is one of its major industries at present. Gem county, Idaho, was created in 1915 with Emmett the county seat.

On the Idaho side of the Snake river, ten miles above Olds ferry, a stage station was established on the Auburn-Boise stage road near the mouth of the Weiser river by Wm. L. Logan, in 1863. A short time later the town of Weiser was started by Jacob Weiser, William Logan and Thomas Galloway. In 1868 Mr. Logan disposed of his interests there and moved to Willow creek in Malheur county to become one of its first citizens. The Willow creek homestead on which he settled remained in possession of the Logan family for the next seventy-seven years, until it was sold by his son, the late J. T. (Tom) Logan. The town of Weiser was platted in 1877, and became the county seat of Washington county, Idaho, in 1879. The first house in Weiser, a log cabin, is still standing.

Miller Station, on the old Auburn-Boise stage road, stood on the present site of Huntington. In 1881, two brothers, Alfred H. and J. B. Huntington, purchased the Miller station and secured title to the land where the town that took their name is now located. In 1884, the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company, building east from Portland, and the Oregon Short Line, a branch of the Union Pacific, building from Granger, Wyoming, formed a junction at Huntington. These railroad systems are now all one line.

When Canyon county, Idaho, was created from a part of Ada county, Caldwell was made the county seat in 1892. When Payette county was cut off from Canyon county in 1917 Payette was named the county seat.

The first settlements in Baker county and the lower Snake river valley, including Auburn, Baker, Boise basin, Boise, Silver City, Jordan Valley, Malheur valley and Mormon basin can all be traced directly to the legend of the Lost Blue Bucket mine.



CHAPTER 9

FIRST SETTLEMENTS IN MALHEUR COUNTY

*Do not stand by idly waiting
For some greater task to do,
Fortune is a lazy goddess,
She will never come to you.*
—S. M. Grannis.

With this thought in mind the first Malheur county settlers did not wait for fortune to smile on them but resolutely started out to find wealth. This county, now recognized as one of Oregon's leading agricultural counties, was first settled by miners and stockmen in the early '60's.

The year 1863 is most memorable in the history of eastern Oregon and Idaho, particularly Malheur county. For it was that year gold was first discovered in the county and the first three settlements were started and the first two large stock ranches were located. About the same time the first log cabins were built on the present sites of the cities of Baker and Boise and work was started on the construction of the Boise Barracks. Settlements were also started in the Payette and Weiser valleys and ferries were installed on the Snake river at Riverside, Washoe and Olds Ferry.

The rich gold find in Mormon basin in the northwestern part of Malheur county in the spring of 1863 by prospectors from Auburn attracted a great deal of attention and many miners flocked to the new camp. Soon after this two large stock ranches were established in Jordan valley, in the southern part of the county. The Ruby, a cattle and horse ranch, was owned and operated by "Doc" Inskip. It was located in the upper valley and embraced three thousand acres. At the same time a man named McWilliams located Sheep ranch, containing about eleven hundred acres in the middle valley.

In the fall of 1863 Jonathan Keeney built a small log house at the Malheur river ford near the hot springs across the river from Vale. In this cabin Keeney conducted a wayside inn for the accommodation of emigrants, miners and freighters. The last two years the tavern was under the management of his youngest son, James Keeney.

Vegetable gardens were planted in Jordan valley as early as 1864.

In 1865 Joseph F. Merrill and John Milky purchased Sheep ranch from McWilliams. Two brothers, Elbert W. and George Clinton, came to the valley in 1865, and were among the first settlers.

In 1865, S. B. Reeves located a homestead, later known as the Norwood Place where the emigrant road crossed Willow creek, to become the first farmer in the northern part of the county. Later that year George Derby and a man named Shoemaker located on land claims six miles above Reeves.

In 1865, the second important gold discovery in Malheur county was made on upper Willow creek in what became known as the Shasta mining district and in 1868, Eldorado, the first town in the county, was founded in that vicinity. William Quinn had settled at that site in 1865. Among the first miners to settle in Mormon basin were Ransom Beers, John Colt and his brother, who took up mining claims there in 1864. John Pederson, Sr., was the first settler on the Malheur river above Vale. He located about four miles above the present city in 1865.

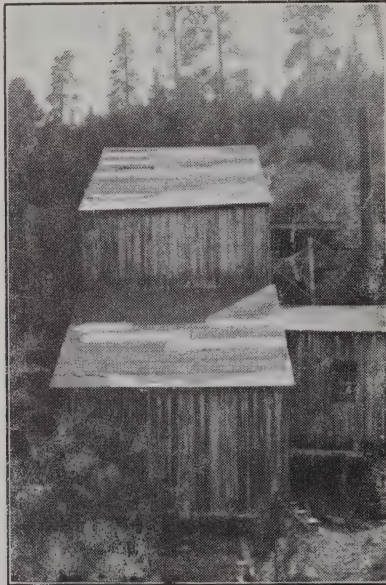
The mountain sides along the divide between Willow creek and Burnt river were found to be rich in placer gold. Located on the Willow creek side of the ridge were the mining camps of Mormon basin, Eldorado, Malheur City and Amelia. On the Burnt river side were the Clark creek and Bridgeport mining districts. This ridge later became the boundary line between Malheur and Baker counties. Mormon basin, where quartz veins were first discovered in 1863, is almost circular in shape and about three miles in diameter. Much coarse gold was found in the basin in the early mining days. In 1866, a nugget worth about \$640 was found. Among the rich mines discovered in the basin were the California, Humboldt, Star, Royal Arch, Sunday Hill, Eagle Head, Rising Star, Asaler and Blue Jay.

Eldorado, Amelia, Clark creek and the Bridgeport districts have yielded heavily in placer gold. In 1868 Eldorado had three general stores, conducted by Stevenson Bros., O. C. Kirkpatrick and Charles Goodnough. S. B. Reeves, the first farmer on Willow creek, conducted a hotel. Among those who came to upper Willow in 1867 and became permanent citizens of the county were E. L. Bradley, James Lynn, Henry Barnes, Archie W. Turner, S. F. Solders, and James Delaney. Others who came to the locality in 1868 were William Morfitt, William S. Glenn, Ben C. Richardson, James Richardson, Gallatin Richardson, George W. Brinnon, Baltimore Howard, J. H. Rose, C. H. Eaton, Hank Edwards and Thomas Welch. B. F. Sargent came in 1869. Cyrus T. Locey, Robert W. Worsham, William O'Brien, C. D. Davis, Samuel Lake, George Phillips, George and John Collins came in 1870. Thomas Stevenson, of the mercantile firm of Stevenson Bros., was the first postmaster of Eldorado, which was the county's first postoffice.

William Morfitt is said to have located the first farm on upper Willow creek in 1868, two or three miles southeast of Eldorado. Mr. Morfitt, a civil engineer, laid out a townsite on his land in 1870, to which he gave

the name of Malheur City. Three stores were soon established in the town, one by Lake Bros., one by William S. Glenn, and the third by George Collins and his sister Mary Collins. J. W. Leatherwood opened a hotel. Malheur City was located nearer the Big Canal than the town of Eldorado and the office of the ditch company was moved from Eldorado to the newer town. Soon the three stores of Kirkpatrick, Goodnough, Stephenson Bros. and the Reeves hotel were moved from Eldorado to Malheur City and Eldorado became a ghost town.

In 1870 a postoffice was established at Malheur City. It is more than probable that Thomas Stephenson—first and only postmaster of Eldorado—became the first postmaster of Malheur City when Stephenson Bros. moved their store from Eldorado to the new town. A stage line from Baker City brought mail to Eldorado and Malheur City. Among the pioneer postmasters of the latter place were Mose Durkheimer, B. F. Sargent, Judson Hill and Johnnie Harriss.



—Photo by Julius M. Field.

Stamp Mill in Mormon Basin.

One of the most extensive enterprises in the Shasta mining district was the large Eldorado canal, generally called the Big Ditch, which ran from the Burnt river to supply water for mining purposes. The promoters and owners of this project were Packwood & Carter. The construction contractor was Joel E. Meacham. The canal was ninety-seven miles in length;

eight an one-half feet wide at the top, six feet wide on the bottom, three feet in depth and carried 2,400 miner inches of water. Most of the work was done by Chinese laborers with picks and shovels. In 1869, J. H. Johnson joined William Packwood and his partner Carter in having the canal extended to 136 miles in length through Shasta Gap from the Burnt river to Willow creek. Mr. Johnson went east and induced Mr. Buford, a capitalist of Rock Island, Illinois, to come to Eldorado to aid in financing the project. The Malheur and Burnt River Consolidated Ditch and Mining Company was organized with headquarters in the town of Eldorado.

William Packwood, one of the locaters and first citizens of Auburn, was extensively interested in the Eldorado mines. Joel E. Meacham was the father of Walter Meacham, executive secretary of the *Oregon Trail Commission*, now residing in Portland and one of the most prominent present-day pioneer citizens in the state. His father was a native of Vermont. While still in his "teens," he and his brother, Stratton Meacham, joined the gold rush to California in 1849. They arrived in San Francisco in a sailing vessel. After some years spent in California Joel E. Meacham came north and took the contract for constructing the Big Ditch. In Eldorado he met Miss Martha Smith who had come to Oregon in 1869 on one of the first passenger trains over the Union Pacific railroad; disembarking at Kelton, Utah, where she boarded a Concord stage coach for Baker City. Soon she was hired to teach school at Eldorado, and there she became engaged to Mr. Meacham. They were married on Christmas Day at the home of the bride's uncle, James Rea, who lived in a log cabin about four miles west of Baker City. Soon after the wedding they left for the Nevada mines where Mr. Meacham accumulated quite a good stake, after which they went to Alameda, California, and built a home. It was in this new home that Walter Meacham was born. While Walter was a very small boy the family traveled north again, settling in the vicinity of Caldwell, Idaho, before the town was there. Joel Meacham built the first irrigation canal from the Boise river to water land near the present town of Caldwell. In 1888 the family moved to Baker City where Walter Meacham's parents spent the remainder of their lives.

Walter Meacham has spent much of his life in the vicinity of Baker. In that city in 1922 he started the first organized movement to publicize the memory of the *Old Oregon Trail*. From the date of its inception, in 1922, Walter Meacham has taken a leading role in the *Old Oregon Trail Association*, now incorporated under the title of *The Oregon Council American Trails Association*, with headquarters at 824 S. W. Fifth Avenue, Portland, Oregon. He is the Association's executive secretary.

Among the famous mines of the Eldorado district in the olden days were the Red, White and Blue, Golden Eagle, Sunset, Tenderfoot, Johnny and Sunset Quartz. A number of stamp-mills operated in Mormon basin and

Eldorado districts. William Morfitt built and operated the first flour mill in the county at Malheur City, which was operated by water power.

Miss Mary Collins married Gallatin Richardson, a saloon keeper in Malheur City. He was a brother of James Richardson, who built the first saloon building in Ontario, and a cousin of Judge B. C. Richardson. After her husband's death Mary Richardson went to Baker City where she resided until her death October 20, 1932, at the age of 91 years. She was one of the four original owners of the Ontario townsite and at the time of her death still had large land holdings in Ontario.

Among the later pioneer merchants of Malheur City were Morfitt Bros., sons of William Morfitt; and Robert Boswell. Joe Durr was one of the first blacksmiths. When he went to Ontario in 1884 and built the first blacksmith shop there, George W. Lyells came from Baker to Malheur City and opened a shop. He had come from Colorado, as a boy, walking most of the way barefoot and driving an ox team. He worked in the mines and learned the blacksmith trade in Baker. From Malheur City G. W. Lyells went to Vale and later to Ontario, where he continued his trade. Robert Morfitt, second son of William Morfitt, was another blacksmith in the mining town. Durr, Lyells and Morfitt are all deceased. Mrs. Mary Stevens Lyells, who married G. W. Lyells in Baker, was chosen queen by the *Malheur County Pioneer Association* in 1944. She now resides with her daughter, Mrs. Angie Cook, in Nyssa.

William Kennedy located near Malheur Butte in 1868 and for some time thereafter this ancient landmark was called Kennedy Butte. His daughter, Barbara, born there October 22, 1870, was the first white child born on the lower Malheur. In 1885, the family moved to lower Willow creek. Barbara became the second wife of Emory Cole, second son of J. L. Cole, the first to raise vegetables to supply miners in the Eldorado district. Alfred Lofton was second to raise vegetables to supply the miners.

In the summer of 1868 Louis B. Rinehart turned loose the first band of range cattle on the Malheur near the Washoe ferry. When the mines began to fail some of the miners turned their attention to farming and stock raising. David Dunbar, father of Margaret Trow, wife of the present Ontario postmaster, appears to have been the first stockman to settle in the immediate vicinity of Ontario. He took up a wild hay ranch on the Snake river in 1869, a little over two miles southeast of where Ontario was located about fourteen years later.

Among the first settlers in the lower Willow creek valley was Joshua L. Cole, who came from Boise in 1868, and William L. Logan, who came the same year from Weiser. Archie W. Turner came from Eldorado in 1869, and Joseph A. Morton from Grande Ronde valley in 1870. John S. Edwards, J. G. Gray, Alex Smith, Tom Harris, Ben Jones, William Harris and James Thomson in 1871, and the latter's son, William G. Thomson in 1872.

In 1871, William S. Glenn moved his store from Malheur City to lower Willow creek and established the town of Glennville, the third town in the county, near the present town of Jamieson. Among those who located on lower Willow creek later were C. D. Davis, E. L. Kendall, William Kennedy, Webb Anderson, James O. Moudy, John Taylor, Frank O'Neill and a number of others.

On the Malheur river, above the Vale Stone House, were John Pederson and family, Fred Gillerman and family, and Jep D. Osborn, a bachelor, and two or three other families, who located there prior to 1878.

G. W. Brinnon, who had mined in both Boise basin and Eldorado, came from the latter mining district in 1871 and settled on a wild hay ranch at the mouth of the Malheur river and built the first house in the immediate vicinity of the place where the Otis Thayer house now stands. The same year William S. Stark came from Idaho City and located a wild hay ranch about six miles south of Ontario. About that time R. A. Lockett settled at the mouth of Lockett's Gulch on the Snake river a few miles southwest of Nyssa. For a number of years Stark was the cattle king and Lockett was the horse baron of the Snake river valley.

William W. Emison came from Baker City in 1872 to take charge of the Washoe ferry. Later he sold the ferry to G. W. Brinnon and engaged in farming and stock raising on the Malheur river above the Brinnon place. He afterward acquired what was long known as the Emison place, about six miles south of Ontario, when W. K. Stark moved to lower Willow creek in 1877 to continue in the cattle business. Melvin D. and Joseph E. Kelley were step-sons of Mr. Stark. Both were small children when they came to the Snake river valley from their birthplace, Idaho City. Both boys grew to manhood on lower Willow creek to become prominent in business and official affairs of the county. In 1879 R. A. Lockett also located on lower Willow creek to continue in the stock business.

About 1871 James Henoty settled at the Washoe ferry, on the Idaho side, where he conducted a salmon fishery. About that time Malcomb Smith located just east of Malheur Butte, on the north side of the river, and engaged in dairying, supplying butter for the Silver City and Eldorado mines. In 1873 Jacob Stroup and bride, while on their way from Alba, Missouri, to Walla Walla, were met at the Washoe ferry by Mr. and Mrs. Smith, who induced them to settle near the Smith dairy at the foot of the butte. That fall the Stroups vacated their cabin and located in Washoe. Smith later closed his dairy and moved away. The Kennedy, Smith and Stroup log cabins, were still near the base of the butte, in a dilapidated condition, when I came to Malheur county in 1886.

In 1874, J. A. Morton with his family, who had moved from near Glennville to the mouth of Bully creek, located on the Snake river above the Dunbar place, about three miles southeast of the present city of Ontario.

About that time William O'Brien, who had mined in Boise basin and came from there to the Eldorado mines in 1870, settled on a ranch on the Malheur river adjoining the Brinnon ranch on the west, and engaged in raising horses. Some time later J. S. Thorp settled in Washoe. All of the settlers in this vicinity were married with the exception of Dave Dunbar, William O'Brien and Jim Henoty. Dunbar and Henoty married later. O'Brien never married. He was an uncle of J. F. Dyer, the present-day Ontario banker. All these first settlers were living on wild hay ranches. This was before alfalfa had been introduced. The wild hay required little care and attention until the fall of the year when time came to harvest the crop. All meadows were sub-irrigated from adjacent sloughs.

In those days this locality must have been a hunter's paradise. Dave Dunbar said that he could take a club and kill all the young wild ducks he wanted. Wild ducks and other fowls hatched and reared their young along banks of sloughs. As they were seldom disturbed by hunters they became quite tame. After I came in 1886 plenty of wild game, including deer, could be found in the hills leading back from Malheur Butte and the breaks of Jacobson and Henry gulches. There were some mountain lions.

In 1872, Peter Keeney and Thomas Glenn settled on the lower Owyhee. About that time the Harper brothers built a small log cabin in Harper basin—named for them. J. D. Osborn, who settled in a cottonwood grove not far from the mouth of the Malheur river canyon in 1873, later opened a small store there and the place was called Grove.

In 1867 Cornelius Shea came to Jordan valley from Canada and for years operated one of the largest stock ranches in the west. In 1872 he was joined by his brother Jeremiah Shea. In 1897 Cornelius Shea turned his stock over to his son, Albert Shea, and with his wife went to San Francisco to reside. Sheaville in Jordan valley is named for him.

The Jordan Valley postoffice, established in 1870 on the stage line running between Boise, Silver City and Winnemucca, was the second postoffice in Malheur county. Among the pioneer postmasters of Jordan Valley were John Baxter, J. R. Blackaby and Mrs. Alice Williams. All are deceased. J. R. Blackaby, was the father of Earl Blackaby, present city treasurer of Ontario. Mrs. Williams was the mother of Mrs. Otto Blackaby, of Homedale, Idaho, and Mrs. R. M. Duncan, of Burns, Oregon.

William Parks located on land adjoining the town of Jordan Valley in 1871 and later became one of its leading merchants. R. H. Hart and James McCain settled in the valley the same year. The next year William Mangin and John Kellogg were among the pioneers to locate there. G. B. Glover and T. C. Fletcher came in 1875. A. F. Canter, J. C. Connor, George Vanderhoff, H. W. Hicks and J. N. Fell were other Jordan valley pioneers.

In 1874 William P. Beers purchased the Ruby ranch and became one of the leading horse raisers and cattlemen of that section until his death.

David King, father of Will R. King, came to the valley in 1878. J. R. Blackaby came there from Milton, Iowa, in 1880.

The first settler to locate on Alder or Bully creek was Levi Westfall, leader of the Westfall clan, who came there in 1870.

In 1877, B. L. Milligan captained a wagon train bound from Fayetteville, Arkansas, for the Willamette valley; but all these emigrants settled in Eastern Oregon and none of them reached their planned destination. Professor Milligan was a graduate of the Fayetteville Seminary. This scholarly gentleman was a minister of the gospel as well as an educator. For many years he was county school superintendent.

Among those who accompanied B. L. Milligan in the wagon train was Professor A. J. Callaway, another pedagogue who graduated from the same college. Others of the party, who came with their families, were: J. M. Brown, T. B. Fiser, A. J. Sizemore, Thomas Steele, J. C. Blaylock and William Macomb. After passing through the Snake river valley, Thomas Fiser and family stopped near Baker City. Most of the others went on to Grant county. About 1882 most of the Arkansas emigrants located at the junction of the middle and north forks of the Malheur river. Thomas Steele and wife both died in Grant county before the others settled on the Malheur.

Sarah, wife of A. J. Callaway, was the first-born of Thomas Steele. After their parent's death the other four Steele daughters, Emma, Naoma, Mattie and Lillie and their brother William Steele, accompanied the Callaway family to Juntura. Emma married John Knox and Naoma married George Wright at Juntura. After the Callaway, Knox and Wright families came to the vicinity of Ontario, Lillie Steele married James A. Walter and Mattie married Charles E. Amidon. All of the above named are deceased with the exception of Mrs. Naoma Wright, now residing at Nampa, Mrs. Mattie Amidon, of Ontario, and Mrs. Lillie Walter, of La Grande. Of their deceased husbands, George Wright came from Kansas to Agency valley about 1886. J. A. Walter, a native of Indiana, came from Nevada in 1882. C. E. Amidon, a native of Michigan, came to Ontario in 1884. He said that at the time of his arrival there were only two buildings in the village—the Morfitt and Richardson store buildings. A son, Alva Amidon, is a prominent farmer of Valley View.

Professor B. L. Milligan secured a postoffice, to which he gave the name Juntura, signifying junction of the rivers. Mrs. A. J. Sizemore was appointed postmistress. Another postoffice was established at the confluence of the south and middle forks of the Malheur to which was given the name of Riverside. Mrs. J. C. Blaylock, another of the Arkansas colony, was named postmistress.

Among the first pioneer stockmen of Juntura vicinity were William Jones, D. M. Masterson, George A. Hickey, S. F. Solders, W. P. Allen, C. F. and George Curry. Others besides J. C. Blaylock in the Riverside locality

were Duncan C. McRae, John Knox, George Cox, Jack D. and Harry Fairman.

While living on his farm in Juntura valley, B. L. Milligan had one of his legs broken above the knee, when his team ran away. He became permanently crippled from the accident. In 1898 Professor Milligan was elected county school superintendent and sometime thereafter moved with his family to Ontario where he bought a farm about two miles southwest of the city. In February, 1901, his injured limb became infected and he was taken to the hospital in Baker where the leg was amputated at the hip joint. After filling the office of superintendent for ten years, to which he had been unanimously elected after the first term, he retired and moved to Walla Walla where he spent the remainder of his life.

J. M. Brown and his son-in-law, T. B. Fiser, moved from Juntura to Ontario about 1899 and engaged in the hotel business. William Macomb, another of the Arkansas colony who came with B. L. Milligan by team and wagon, later located on a farm on Dead Ox Flat. Mrs. M. J. Curry, another of the colony, moved to Ontario after her husband's death. Her daughter, Maud, married Orin N. Boyer. Both mother and daughter have passed on.

About 1880 the Pacific Live Stock Company purchased a large tract of land in Agency valley from the government, that formerly included part of the former Piute Indian reservation, and established their Agency valley stock ranch. A number of settlers also came into the valley about that time and obtained parcels of reservation land from the government. Included among the first settlers were two brothers, Richard H. and Winfield W. Scott, and their father, John M. Scott, who came to Agency valley in 1882. Between them they secured about 2,700 acres of farming and grazing land.

Dick Scott married Miss Jessie McGrigin, member of another of the first families to settle in the valley. Mrs. Jessie Scott frequently rode the range with her husband. Later they moved to Westfall where Mrs. Scott died in 1940. A son of John M. and Clara Robinson Scott, was born in Douglas county, Oregon, December 28, 1863. His grandfather was the noted Oregon pioneer, Levi Scott, from whom the town of Scottsburg and Mount Scott are named. With his parents, Dick Scott moved to The Dalles, where he attended high school. From there the family came to Agency valley in the autumn of 1882. His brother, M. W. Scott and ~~also~~ Mrs. Pearl Scott and their sister, Mrs. Mary Smith, all prominent Malheur county pioneers, reside in Ontario. Dick Scott had been a resident of Malheur county for 67 years at the time of his death, October 12, 1947, in Ontario.

Among others of the first settlers in Agency valley were Jason S. Hunter, Adam, William and Kenneth Murray, brothers; Elias Thompson, W. S. Cooley, R. H. DeArmond, Thomas L. Arnold and his son, Thomas F. Arnold. A postoffice was established in the valley in 1884, with T. L. Arnold as postmaster. Mr. Arnold named the postoffice Beulah in honor of his

daughter. Beulah Arnold married Willis Myers. They were the parents of Archie Myers, now a resident of Winnemucca, Nevada. Willis Myers was killed when hit on the head with a billiard cue by Dick DeArmond in a saloon altercation in Drewsey. DeArmond was acquitted of a murder charge in the Harney county court at Burns. After her husband's death Mrs. Beulah Myers married Roy S. Rutherford in Ontario. Some years later they went to Long Beach, California, where she died a number of years ago. Roy Rutherford, son of R. S. Rutherford, still resides there.

Thomas F. Arnold married Miss Etta Bartlett, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Bartlett, pioneer keepers of the Bartlett hotel in Drewsey. The Arnolds later moved to Ontario where they lived for a time. They now reside in Fresno, California. A. J. Bartlett and family came from Missouri to Summerville, Oregon, in 1885, and a little later moved to Beulah and then to Drewsey. Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett came to Ontario in 1920, where on April 20, 1932, Mr. Bartlett was summoned by death a few months after they had celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary. Miss Armineta Jane Myers was born at Memphis, Missouri, in 1850, and was married to A. J. Bartlett in 1870.

On the upper Dead Ox Flat, about twelve miles north of Ontario, Rev. Samuel Applegate and his brother, James, had their homes. "Uncle Sammy" Applegate, as he was familiarly known, was a pioneer Baptist preacher, and was probably the first minister to locate in Malheur county. His home was located on what became known as Applegate Hill. James Applegate lived in a log cabin on lower ground near the Snake river.

On the lower Dead Ox Flat, across the river from Weiser, Dennis Dyer and Otto Strouble each had large stock ranches. Among other prominent pioneers who settled on the lower flat later were J. H. Haworth, M. A. Patch and his brother W. D. Patch. Samuel Hill, Charles Rice, Alfred Erickson, B. F. Duncan, J. H. Purcell and L. A. Pickler located on the upper flat.

Dead Ox Flat derived its name in covered wagon days when a large ox died somewhere along the trail on the flat. The ox had large brass knobs on the tips of his horns, which were for the purpose of preventing cattle of vicious nature from goring.

Tub Springs on the emigrant road between the Washoe ferry and Willow creek derived the name when a barrel, sawed in two, was embedded in one of the springs so that emigrants could dip up water with a bucket. The springs are northwest of Malheur Butte and about nineteen miles west of the Washoe ferry.

Mrs. Lottie Brinnon Hall, born in 1871, was the first white child born in the immediate vicinity of Ontario. Her sister, Mrs. Annie Brinnon McEndry was the second. Their birthplace was the first house built in the locality by their father, G. W. Brinnon, not far from the mouth of the Malheur river. Mrs. Charlotte Hall, deceased, was the mother of Mrs. Stacie Davis, wife

of Conley Davis, of Fruitland. Mrs. Ollie Emison Young, was the third white child. Her birthplace was the Washoe ferry-house. Her younger brother, Charles R. Emison, deceased, was the first boy baby. He was born on the Malheur river, between the river's mouth and the butte.

CHAPTER 10

SOME OF THE FIRST MALHEUR COUNTY PIONEERS

*One by one the sands are flowing,
One by one the moments fall;
Some are coming, some are going;
Do not strive to catch them all.*

—Adelaide Ann Proctor.

The preceding chapter pertains principally to a chronicle relating to the first settlements within the present boundaries of Malheur county. This chapter is devoted to brief biographical sketches, or a sort of "Who's Who," of some of the first settlers who established permanent homes and materially aided in moulding the destiny of the county. I shall not attempt to mention all of the early pioneers of Malheur county, but shall introduce the reader to most of them; those who became permanent settlers and were most instrumental in the early development of the county. I was personally acquainted with many and counted some of them as my best friends although they were of an earlier generation than myself. Practically all of them came to Oregon over the old emigrant trail and all of them have long since "passed over the great divide." Jonathan Keeney was one of the early pioneers I never met, having died long before I came to this county.

CAPTAIN JONATHAN KEENEY, who installed the Riverside ferry at the site of old Fort Boise on the Snake river, probably erected the first house in what is now Malheur county. This was the log cabin built on the Malheur river at the hot springs near the present city of Vale in the fall of 1863. Captain Keeney was a personal friend of Captain James Bridger, discoverer of South Pass through the Rocky mountains that opened the way for emigrants to come to Oregon by team and wagon.

In 1834, when only eighteen years of age, Jonathan Keeney joined a trapping party of thirty-two men under Captain William Sublette at Westport, (Kansas City, Mo.) headed for the Rocky mountains. The party met

Jim Bridger's trapping party on the Sweetwater river. This was Keeney's first meeting with Bridger. Sublette and his men went to the headwaters of the Platte river to trap. Keeney remained with Bridger and accompanied him to Fort Laramie. During 1834-35 Keeney worked for the Rocky Mountain Fur Company under Bridger. He was at Fort Laramie at the time Nathaniel J. Wyeth's party passed there in 1834 on its way to the Columbia river. Mr. Keeney returned to Missouri in 1837 and married Miss Mary Shoemaker at Westport. A few years later, accompanied by his family, he returned to the West and for some time scouted with Jim Bridger in the vicinity of Fort Bridger. In 1861 Keeney and his family went to Walla Walla. In 1862 he joined the gold rush to Auburn and the Boise basin. He drove the first beef cattle into the basin to supply miners with meat and opened the first store in Placerville. As before stated, in 1863, he installed and operated the Riverside ferry, in which enterprise he was assisted by John B. McLoughlin and John Duvall. In the fall of 1863 he opened a wayside inn in a small log house at the emigrant ford on the Malheur. In 1870 he sold the property to Lou B. Rinehart and engaged in farming on lower Willow creek. He was accidentally killed by the discharge of his own gun.

According to H. H. Bancroft, the historian, Keeney met with this accident while hunting near his farm. Frank B. Glenn, of Vale, the oldest living pioneer citizen in the county, has told me that Keeney was not hunting at the time of the accident, but was making a trip on horseback at the time he was killed. Mr. Glenn said his body and horse were found at a spring on Gum creek, and the general supposition is that a revolver he was carrying in his saddle-pockets was accidentally discharged as he was attempting to dismount to get a drink at the spring. Mr. Glenn, who knew Mr. Keeney well, was living in the locality at that time and was familiar with the circumstances concerning the tragedy.

In those days men traveling some distance on horseback usually carried their belongings in saddle-pockets. Frank said it is supposed that when Keeney attempted to dismount the heel of his right boot caught on the saddle-pocket drawing it over the horse's back to the left side causing the revolver to fall out and discharge when it hit the ground. Thus ended the life of an early day trapper, Indian scout and miner, who was the first pioneer to locate on the banks of the Malheur river.

The Keeneys had five children, four boys and a girl. The oldest son, Peter Keeney, located a ranch in Sand Hollow southwest of Vale, still known as the Keeney place. The other children were Elias, Eli, James and Nannie.

JOHN B. McLOUGHLIN, who helped Keeney install the Riverside ferry, was born in Ste. Genevieve county, Missouri, January 27, 1827. When a small boy his parents moved to Covington, Kentucky, where he was raised on a farm and educated in a nearby country school. In 1848, at the age of

twenty-one years, he left his home for the West and spent the winter at Fort Laramie. The next spring, the year of the gold rush, he went to California where he mined for the next twelve years. In 1861 he came to Walla Walla and the next spring joined in the gold rush to Boise basin. At the Riverside ferry-house he was married to Miss Bertha J. Froman, daughter of Felix K. and Martha Froman, November 19, 1865. In 1866 he disposed of his interests in the ferry and engaged in stock raising in the Boise valley. In 1878 the McLoughlins went to lower Willow creek and in 1880 settled on a homestead on the Malheur river nine miles above the present town of Vale. At that time there were only two women besides Mrs. McLoughlin residing in that vicinity, Mrs. John Pederson and Mrs. Fredrick Gillerman. In 1882 Mr. McLoughlin dug the first ditch from the Malheur river to irrigate his farm. He resided on his farm until his sudden death at the age of 74, from a heart attack March 20, 1901. A member of the Masonic lodge for forty years his funeral was conducted by that order. The McLoughlins were the parents of five children. The first-born died in infancy. The others were John, George, Mabel and Grace.

Miss Mabel McLoughlin became the wife of John Norwood and for years resided with her husband on the Norwood place near Jamieson. They are the parents of one daughter, Bettie. The family was residing in Vale at the time of Mrs. Norwood's death, November 5, 1936. Mabel McLoughlin Norwood was a native daughter of Malheur county, having been born on the old McLoughlin homestead on the Malheur. Her husband, John Norwood, is a native son, having been born on the old Norwood place on lower Willow creek. John and George McLoughlin reside in the vicinity of Vale. Their other sister, Mrs. Grace McLoughlin Stone, is now a resident of Los Angeles.

DR. FELIX KENT FROMAN, a native of Kentucky, was born in 1824. His wife, Martha, was born in Virginia in 1828. They were living in Marysville, Missouri, at the beginning of the Civil War. Dr. Froman served in the Confederate army as a surgeon until his commission expired in the fall of 1863. Upon returning home he found that his stock farm had been destroyed by raiders. The war was still in progress and it was with much difficulty that he made his way north to Marshalltown, in the adjoining state of Iowa. His brother, James Froman, disguised as a peddler, and the doctor's seventeen-year-old son, Horton, brought the rest of the family to Iowa. From there, on April 12, 1864, they started across the plains with an emigrant train of sixty wagons. Dr. Froman was elected captain of the train. There were seven children in the Froman family. Their names were Horton, Benjamin, George, Bertha, Elizabeth, Betty and Mary. The Froman wagon train combined with another train going to California. The two trains, numbering about one hundred wagons, traveled together until they came to the junction of the Oregon and California trails. Indians attempted to steal their stock. Dissension arose in the Oregon bound train and it divided into two

sections. Part of the train laid over while thirty wagons headed by the captain, Dr. Froman, continued on to Boise, where it arrived in September, 1864. In the fall of 1865 Froman took charge of the Riverside ferry, which, up to that time, had been conducted by Keeney, McLoughlin and Duvall. At that time the ferry was largely patronized by emigrants and miners. The ferry house, containing six rooms, was conducted as a tavern by the Fromans. The Wells-Fargo Express Company stages crossed the ferry twice a week and stopped over night at the ferry house. Most of the bills at that time were paid in gold dust. Scales for weighing the gold were kept in the office of the ferry house. Near the ferry house a few old adobe brick marked the site of old Fort Boise.

On November 19, 1865, the Froman's gave their daughter, Miss Bertha Jane, in marriage to John B. McLoughlin. The wedding took place at the ferry house. A Christmas ball was given by the Fromans at the ferry house December 25, 1865. The river froze over during the severe winter of 1865-66. On March 16, 1866, Elizabeth Ann Froman and John Duvall contracted the second marriage at the ferry house and went to Boise to reside. On April 10, 1866, Martha Price Froman, youngest of the Froman daughters was born. Not long after, the Fromans moved back to their island home Dr. Froman was elected a member of the Idaho Territorial legislature while living at the Riverside ferry.

In 1869 Jefferson Felix Froman, the youngest of the Froman children was born. On January 25, 1875, Mary Josephine Froman and David Mumford were married. In 1877, the year of the Nez Perce Indian war, the Fromans moved to the vicinity of Falk's store, on the Payette river. Their sons, Horton, Ben and George, served as scouts in this war and also the Bannock-Piute war of 1878. In the war of '78, while serving as a scout under Colonel Rube Robbins, Horton Froman was killed on Elk creek, in Grant county. Two other scouts were wounded, one seriously. Fourteen scouts had been sent ahead of the command to reconnoiter when they were fired on by Indians from ambush. Horton Froman was buried where he was killed. Later Dr. Froman and his two sons, George and Ben, brought the body home and the remains were buried in the Canyon cemetery in the Boise valley a few miles below Middleton.

Late in 1878 Dr. Froman rented the William K. Stark wild hay ranch on the Oregon side of the Snake river between the present towns of Ontario and Nyssa. In 1881 the Fromans moved to the Malheur river, on the south side of the stream, about seven miles above Vale. With Fred Gillerman he dug a ditch from the Malheur which was known as the Froman-Gillerman ditch. In 1882 George Froman and Miss Ada Bowman were married. In 1884 Martha Price Froman and George Thebo were joined in wedlock. The same year Jefferson F. Froman and Miss Minnie Horn were married. For a number of years Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Froman conducted the Carter House in

Ontario. They were the parents of two daughters, one of whom married Don Platt and the other Marlin Grames. Jeff Froman is deceased and his widow now resides in Portland.

When Malheur county was created Dr. F. K. Froman, a democrat, was appointed the first county judge by Governor Pennoyer. He was elected coroner in 1896. Dr. Froman resided on his ranch above Vale for sixteen years. His health began to fail in 1896 and he was taken to the home of his son, George Froman, in Caldwell, where he died in February, 1897. After her husband's death, Mrs. Froman sold the farm and went to live with her daughter, Mrs. Mumford at Caldwell. She was taken seriously ill December 26, 1899, and remained an invalid until her death nearly three years later, September 2, 1902. She died thirty-eight years after coming to Boise valley.

GEORGE W. BRINNON was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, April 15, 1838, the son of William P. and Elizabeth Preston Brannon. When a child his parents moved to Champaign county, Ohio. Later they went to Caldwell county, Missouri, and then to Davis county in the same state. Young George attended subscription school in a log school house. At the age of fifteen he drove a freight team for the government across the plains to Colorado and remained in the service three years, the last part of which he was assistant wagon master, at a salary of \$75.00 per month. His last trip was from Denver back to Missouri in 1861. That year he joined Company C, Twelveth Missouri Volunteers in the Confederate army and fought under General Price. He was in three battles, Lexington, Kirksville and Wilson Creek. He was taken prisoner at Wilson Creek in 1863 and later paroled. The same year he went to Madison county, Iowa, and on April 3, 1863, started across the plains in a wagon train to the Idaho mines. His two brothers-in-law, Gardner and Niemire, were members of the party. They arrived in Boise in the fall of 1863 when that city was a small village of only three houses and a few tents. One of these was an adobe, and the other two were log houses, one of which is still standing. Mr. Brannon followed mining for awhile in the Boise basin and then went to Riverside ferry which he operated for some time for Jonathan Keeney. At times he had to defend the ferry against hostile Indians. In the summer of 1864 he went to Emmetville, and there on October 24, 1864, he was united in marriage to Miss Nancy J. Smith, a native of Harrison county, Missouri, who had crossed the plains in the same wagon train in which Mr. Brannon had come west. Mrs. Brannon was a daughter of Jonathan Smith, a prominent early day pioneer of Emmetville, who had mined with Mr. Brannon at Placerville and Malheur City. They went to Malheur City in 1868 and engaged in mining there for some time. In 1871 Mr. Brannon settled at the mouth of the Malheur river where he secured over four hundred acres of land and engaged in stock raising. He built a home on the south side of

the Malheur, not far from the mouth, which was the first house built in the immediate vicinity of Ontario. About 1874 he purchased the Washoe ferry from W. W. Emison, which he operated until 1884 when he sold the ferry to W. W. Paine, who moved it up the river above the railroad bridge. The Oregon Short Line railroad had been but recently built through the valley and the towns of Ontario and Payette located. Mr. Brinnon had passed over the ground where Ontario is situated many times long before the first house was built in the city. He stated that at the time he located his stock ranch on the Malheur and for sometime thereafter, a splendid range for live stock existed on the present site of Ontario. That, in some portions of the town, wild rye grass grew so high that a man riding on horseback would be almost obscured from view.

On May 15, 1887, Mrs. Brinnon, who had been an invalid for some time, passed away. She was the mother of eight children, Louisa, Mary Elizabeth, Jonathan William, Charlotte, Georgeanna, Julia, Edward and Fredrick E. The oldest, Louisa, became the wife of James Davis; both are deceased. Mary Elizabeth married Thomas J. Brosnan, now deceased. Charlotte, now deceased, married William Hall. Anna became the wife of M. G. McEndry; both are deceased. Julia is the wife of Bert Purcell; they reside on Crystal Bottom north of Payette. William and Edward are both deceased. Lizzie and Lottie Brinnon—raised on their father's stock farm—were both excellent horsewomen in their girlhood days. Neither of them hesitated about mounting a cayuse that was liable to buck. Both Billy and Fred Brinnon were good "broncho busters."

After his wife's death G. W. Brinnon sold his large land holdings on both sides of the Malheur river to his son-in-law, T. J. Brosnan, and again turned his attention to mining at Placerville and the Horseshoe Bend section in Idaho. In 1898, while returning from Denver, where he had taken a consignment of ore, Mr. Brinnon was severely injured in a disastrous train wreck near American Falls, in which ten persons were killed and twenty others badly injured. He was taken to a hospital in Salt Lake where it was found necessary to amputate his right leg above the knee. Mr. Brinnon had long been a member of the I.O.O.F. fraternity and members of that order saw that he was well cared for until he was able to leave the hospital and return to Ontario. He was a charter member of Ontario Lodge No. 90.

T. J. Brosnan erected a substantial two-story ranch house on the place he purchased from Mr. Brinnon, near the site of the original Brinnon home. Mr. Brinnon made his home there with his daughter and son-in-law until his death some years later, almost upon the exact spot where he erected his first permanent home in the county in 1871, the first house we have any record of being built in this part of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Brinnon rest in the Ontario cemetery. Only three of this pioneer family are now alive.

ROBERT A. LOCKETT was born in Henderson county, Kentucky, on

November 29, 1838, the son of Thomas J. and Euphemia Agnew Lockett. His early boyhood was spent on a Kentucky tobacco farm. He attended school in a log school house, the seats of which were made of split logs. His mother died in 1852, when young Bob was fourteen years old. Six years later, 1858, when Bob was twenty, he went to Clark county, Missouri, and the next spring went by ox team to Pike's Peak, Colorado, where he engaged in mining. The next fall he returned by ox team to Missouri and went back to his "Old Kentucky Home." There he remained until the spring of 1862 when he joined the Confederate army, enlisting in Company A, Tenth Kentucky Cavalry, and fought under the command of General Joe Morgan. He enlisted as a private and was promoted to first lieutenant at the battle of Murfreesboro, in November, 1862. Lieutenant Lockett was in several hotly contested battles. He was injured in the battle of Stone river when his horse fell on him. He was honorably discharged at the close of the Civil War. On May 1, 1865, he started across the plains with an emigrant train of one hundred wagons, of which he was chosen captain. They had one skirmish with the Indians near Fort Laramie in which one of the emigrants was wounded. At Green river the train disbanded and Mr. Lockett went on to Salt Lake, and later to Idaho, arriving in Boise City October 20, 1865. The next year he went to Idaho City where he engaged in mining until 1870, then went to Umatilla county, Oregon. At Pendleton, on March 22, 1871, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Owens, daughter of Arphaxad and Martha Pinkerton Owens. In 1872 Mr. Lockett came with his wife to this vicinity and located his horse ranch on the Snake river, north of Riverside ferry. After making his home there for seven years he sold the place and "L" brand of range horses to the Oregon Horse & Land Company.

In 1879, Mr. Lockett located on lower Willow creek, near the Dell post-office, where he acquired about one thousand acres of land, of which most was botton land. He built a nice residence, large barn and outbuildings and set out a good orchard. Having plenty of water for irrigation he seeded a large tract of his land to alfalfa and turned his attention to raising cattle and horses.

"Uncle Bob," as he was familiarly called by a host of friends, took a great deal of interest in political affairs. Before Malheur county was created from the southern portion of Baker county he was twice elected representative in the state legislature from Baker county on the democratic ticket. He introduced the bill in the legislature creating Malheur county and was very instrumental in securing the passage of the enabling act creating the county. "Uncle Bob" was the first president of the *Malheur County Pioneer Association*. He also served many years as justice of the peace in what was then known as the Stone precinct.

Mr. and Mrs. Lockett were the parents of seven sons and a daughter, Marshall, Hardin, Thomas J., Mattie, Lee, Clyde and Early. Marshall

Lockett married Miss Dora Stark; Hardin wed Miss Susie Sawyer; Hickman's wife was Miss Bertha Tague. Miss Mattie Lockett married M. McCambridge and now resides at Redmond, Oregon.

R. A. Lockett died at the Vale Hot Springs Sanatorium, January 18, 1932, at the age of ninety-three. His wife preceded him in death by several years. Both are buried in the cemetery at Jamieson.

WILLIAM K. STARK, one of the first prominent stockmen of the county, established his fifteen hundred acre cattle ranch in the Snake river valley about half way between the present towns of Ontario and Nyssa in 1871. This was the year G. W. Brinnon located his wild hay and stock ranch at the mouth of the Malheur and the year before R. A. Lockett settled at the mouth of Lockett's gulch. They were the first three families to settle in this part of the county. Dave Dunbar, a bachelor, had settled a year or two previous in the immediate vicinity of Ontario. Mr. Stark had mined for several years in the Boise basin. In 1871 he married Mrs. Margaret Kelley, widow of Thomas Kelley, another miner, at Idaho City. The same year he located his stock ranch on the Snake and moved his family there. Mrs. Stark had two sons by her former marriage, Melville D. and Joseph C. Kelley. They were but four and two years old, respectively, when the family came to Malheur county. In 1877 Mr. Stark sold his ranch on the Snake to W. W. Emison and located another stock ranch on lower Willow creek where he continued in the cattle business until his death in 1891. Six years later his wife followed him in death.

WILLIAM W. EMISON and Miss Mary N. Rice were united in marriage at Hannibal, Missouri, in the late Sixties, and the same year came across the plains by ox team. They first settled in Baker City where Mr. Emison followed mining. At Baker their first child, Sanford N. Emison, was born on July 13, 1872. The same year the family came to the Washoe ferry of which Mr. Emison took charge and with his brother, "Buck" Emison, operated for W. H. Packwood, Sr. Later Mr. Emison purchased the ferry. Mrs. Emison's second child, a daughter, Olive, was born at the ferry house. She became the wife of W. H. Packwood, Jr. Mr. Emison operated the ferry until 1875 when he sold the property to G. W. Brinnon and engaged in stock raising and farming on the Malheur above the Brinnon place. Here their third child, Charles Rice Emison, was born on October 5, 1875. In 1880, Mr. Emison acquired the Stark ranch six miles south of Ontario and continued in the stock business.

During the Indian war of 1878, when news came the Bannocks had left the Fort Hall reservation and were headed for eastern Oregon, Mrs. Emison with her three children, Sanford, Ollie and Charley, crossed the Snake and fled by stage to Fort Boise. Mr. Emison remained at the ranch to look after the stock while his brother, Buck, accompanied Mrs. Emison and the children to Boise.

Before the coming of the railroad, W. W. Emison and Dennis Dyer, the father of Joe E. Dyer, the well-known bank manager, drove their cattle to the eastern market over the *Old Oregon Trail*. Samuel Applegate went with them. Mrs. Emison, with her three children, accompanied her husband, traveling by carriage. After selling the cattle at Omaha, the Emisons continued on to Hannibal, Missouri, to pay a visit to their old home.

The two younger of the Emison children, William, Jr., and Salome, were both born on the ranch between Ontario and Nyssa. Willie Emison, as everyone called him, was drowned while bathing with a party of friends in the Snake river at the Emison Bros. ferry near Nyssa, July 17, 1901. The body was recovered the next morning by his brother, C. R. Emison. The deceased was buried in the Ontario cemetery.

In 1897, Mr. Emison's health began to fail and he turned the management of his large ranch and stockholdings over to his two oldest sons and with his wife went to Baker City to reside. He died in Baker in 1898 and his body was brought back to Ontario for burial. Mrs. Emison went to Portland, where she died a few years later, and now rests beside her husband in the Ontario cemetery. Their two daughters are the only members of this pioneer family alive today. Ollie Emison Young resides near Los Angeles, and Salome Emison Frost lives in Montana.

JOSEPH W. MORTON was born in Preston county, Virginia, January 5, 1834, the son of James and Jane Connor Morton. When he was about nine years old his parents moved to Drake county, Ohio, and from there they went to Howard county, Indiana. He was educated in log school houses and had to walk a long distance to school. His boyhood days were spent on a farm. After attaining manhood, Mr. Morton went to Adams county, Iowa, where he operated a sawmill. In 1856 he married Miss Clementine Ireland. With ox team he took his bride to Coffey county, Kansas, where they resided for the next six years. In 1862 they joined a large emigrant train and crossed the plains to Grande Ronde valley. Indians were troublesome and they encountered many hardships on the overland trip. Mr. Morton located a land claim and mined on Eagle creek until 1870 when he came with his family to this section and settled on lower Willow creek, near the present town of Jamieson, and engaged in stock raising. In 1872, they moved to the Malheur valley near the mouth of Bully creek, and while living there Mr. Morton assisted L. B. Rinehart in the construction of the famous Old Stone House at Vale.

In 1874 Mr. Morton located on the Snake river about two miles southeast of the present town of Ontario and continued raising stock, mostly horses. He raised considerable wild hay on a large island in the river, which became known as Morton's Island. During the Indian war of 1878 Mr. Morton enlisted as a scout and rendered good service. In 1895 he sold his place southeast of Ontario and bought the Horseshoe Bend toll road on

the Payette river, leading to Placerville, Idaho. In 1898 he sold the toll road to his son, L. M. Morton, returned to Ontario and bought a farm about two miles southwest of town.

When the Oregon Horse & Land Company was closing out its interests, Mr. Morton purchased some of the best horses, which he shipped to the eastern market. In the spring of 1901 he shipped two carloads to Nome, Alaska, which he sold at a good price. After disposing of his horses he engaged in mining there until the following fall when he returned home.

The Morton children were Jane Ann, Leonard M., Florence, Frances, Clementine, Ella, Alma, Joseph W. (Jinks), and Reuben. Jane became the wife of C. D. Davis; they are both deceased. Leonard married Miss Susie Darr. He died a number of years ago. His widow resides in Ontario. Frances married J. L. Sells, who for many years was a prominent stockman of the Westfall section, until his death a number of years ago. Mrs. Sells, until her death on Eagle creek, September 12, 1946, at the age of 80 years, was one of the longest continuous residents of Malheur county. After her husband's death she made her home with her daughter, Mrs. J. D. Fairman. Clementine became the wife of J. Edwards. She was the mother of Joe Edwards. Her second husband was George W. Chambers, stockman and blacksmith, who conducted a shop in Ontario a number of years. Mr. and Mrs. Chambers are both deceased. He was the father of Verne Chambers by a former marriage. Alma Morton married Almer G. King, who served two terms as county clerk. They now reside in Grants Pass, Oregon.

While the Morton children were raised on the banks of the Snake river, three of them met tragic deaths by drowning in smaller streams. Florence was drowned in the Malheur. Ella was drowned at the time the family resided on Horseshoe Bend. Reuben was drowned in the flood waters of Dry creek, while attempting to swim his horse across the swollen stream.

WILLIAM S. GLENN, a native of Ohio, was born March 4, 1835. When a young man he migrated to Pleasantville, Iowa, where he met and married Miss Mary Beckwith, daughter of William and Mary Beckwith. In 1862, Mr. Glenn was elected captain of a large emigrant train of about forty wagons bound from Iowa to the Oregon country. At Sweetwater they took the newly constructed road, called the "Lander's Cutoff," named for the builder, and about one hundred miles shorter than the old road. This road was a great improvement over the original trail and they were able to make much better time. Captain Glenn's party had no serious trouble with Indians, but some of the wagon trains traveling just ahead of them were attacked. They arrived at Massacre Rocks only a day or two behind the wagon train that gave those rocks their name.

The wagon train of which Mr. Glenn was captain arrived at its destination in Grande Ronde valley October 1, 1862. Mr. Glenn located a land claim near Summerville, where the family lived until 1868, when they came

to the Eldorado mining country on upper Willow creek. Mr. Glenn opened one of the first stores in Malheur City. In 1871 he came to lower Willow creek and opened a store near the present site of Jamieson and the place was named Glennville. This was the fourth town in the county, being preceded only by Eldorado, Malheur City and Jordan Valley. A postoffice was established with Mr. Glenn as postmaster. He had a two-story building erected opposite his store in which the Odd Fellows instituted a lodge in the upper story. The lower part of the building was used as a dance hall. After Vale was named the county seat, Mr. Glenn moved his buildings to Vale and Glennville, like Eldorado, became a ghost town. The Glenn two-



Glennville

story lodge hall is still standing in Vale and is now the home of the Vale Grange. It is the second oldest building in Vale.

When Vale was incorporated as a city in 1889, William S. Glenn became the first mayor. He was the grandfather of the former Malheur county Sheriff, Charles W. Glenn, who served 24 years in that capacity and declined another term. Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Glenn were the parents of the following children: Amelia, Arthur W., Emma, Luella, Frank B., Etta, Walter and David. Only two of the children of this prominent pioneer couple, Frank B. and Walter M. Glenn, are living at the time this story is being written.

ARTHUR W. GLENN, eldest son of William S. and Nancy C. Glenn, was born in Pleasantville, Iowa, April 8, 1859. In 1862, when Arthur was only three years old, he came across the plains from his native state with his parents in a covered wagon. They camped at the hot springs near the Malheur river ford the year before Jonathan Keeney built his log cabin there. The family settled at Summerville in Grande Ronde valley. In 1868 the elder Glenn bought his family to the Eldorado mining district. On July 15, 1882, Arthur W. Glenn and Miss Esther Thebaud were united in marriage at the Central Hotel in Boise, Idaho. Mrs. Glenn was born in the Idaho basin, September 23, 1865. When but six years of age she came with her



Odd Fellow Hall, Glennville

parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Thebaud, to the Malheur river above the present town of Vale in 1871. Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Glenn, both deceased, were the parents of seven children, three sons and four daughters, all of whom are living. They are Miss Mary Glenn, engaged in the mercantile business in Vale; Mrs. Emma Quisenberry, of Vale; Charles W. Glenn, who for the past twenty-four years has been Malheur county's popular sheriff;

George Glenn, of Vale; Mrs. Edith Riley, of Ontario; Arthur T. Glenn, of Hailey, Idaho; and Mrs. J. C. Morfitt, of Wilder, Idaho.

Arthur W. Glenn planted the first alfalfa field in the county on his farm on the Malheur river west of Vale. This was before harrows were introduced in the county and he harrowed the alfalfa seed into the ground with a drag made of willow boughs. Here he engaged in farming and stock raising for many years. Mr. Glenn retired and moved his family to Vale. There he built a substantial residence where he and his estimable wife resided until their deaths. On July 15, 1942, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary at the home of their daughter, Mrs. J. C. Morfitt, in Boise, at which all seven of their children were present. A. W. Glenn died at his home in Vale on Sunday morning, January 20, 1946, at the advanced age of 86 years, 78 of which he had lived in Malheur county. A little over a year later he was followed in death by his devoted helpmate in April, 1947, at the age of 82. For nearly 64 years they had enjoyed a happy married life. Mrs. Glenn had resided in the Vale vicinity for 76 years. Both rest in the I.O.O.F. Vale cemetery. Besides her seven children, Mrs. Glenn was survived by a brother and sister, George Thebo, of Payette, and Mrs. Margaret DeArmond, of Vale. Another brother, Charles Thebo, had died in Denver, Colorado. George Thebo, who had resided near Vale nearly all his life, died in Payette on June 21, 1947.

FRANK B. GLENN, second of the Glenn brothers, was born at Summer-ville, Union county, Oregon, May 19, 1867. When a very small boy he came with his parents to Malheur City, then to Glennville and later to Vale. He engaged in the livery business at the latter place. Frank Glenn's first wife was Miss Dona Johnson, who came to Vale from Montana. They were married February 20, 1890. Mrs. Glenn and their baby died in June, 1891. Both are buried in the Vale cemetery. Mr. Glenn's second wife was the former Miss Lillie M. Altnow, daughter of William and Matilda Altnow, Oregon pioneers of 1868. She was born in Wasco county, September 20, 1875. In 1881 her parents moved to Grant county and she attended school in Canyon City for four years. In 1885 the family moved from Canyon City to what is known as the old Altnow place near Drewsey and she attended school on Otis creek. Mr. Glenn met Miss Altnow at the home of his sister, Mrs. Luella Murray, in Vale during the Christmas holidays of 1896. They were married on July 9, 1897, since which time they have continually resided in Vale. To this union were born four children, three sons and a daughter. The eldest son, Byrd Glenn, is engineering in California. Elwood Glenn, the second son, resides in Vale and is a "bull-dozer" operator. Woodrow, the youngest son, is a civil engineer engaged in government reclamation work. The daughter, Mrs. Ina May Lincus, resides with her husband in Baker. They are the parents of two sons.

In a reminiscent mood, Mr. Glenn related some of his early experiences:

"I was here long before Malheur county was formed and have seen many changes take place from stock raising times to present day farming with more convenient methods and prosperity. I am well satisfied with the different methods of stock raising and farming. My father moved his store in 1871 from Malheur City to lower Willow creek, near the present town of Jamieson, and the place was named Glennville. In 1888 and 1889 most of the buildings of Glennville were moved to Vale and we took up our residence at the county seat.

"In early days, supplies, including potatoes, were freighted in from Walla Walla. My father put up the first wild hay on Willow creek, and cut his foot with a scythe while doing it. I was old enough to follow my father around when our dog's leg was cut off by the scythe, and remember my disappointment when it couldn't be fastened back on.

"Mrs. Glenn and I have spent nearly all our lives in Malheur county, and at present live in a big old fashioned house in Vale. We are proud of our enterprising community and appreciate our good neighbors and friends. When my wife and I were first married we used to ride twenty miles on Friday nights to dances and dance until dawn. We both agree that times have changed greatly from the old days."

Mrs. Lillie May Glenn was called by death from her happy home in Vale at the age of 72 years on October 7, 1947, where she had resided with her husband for 52 years. Frank B. Glenn is now the oldest citizen of Malheur county in point of residence, having continually made his home in the county for over eighty years.

WALTER M. GLENN, youngest of the three Glenn brothers, was born in Summerville, Union county, Oregon, on June 21, 1869, and came to the Eldorado mining district in this county when a mere baby and to Glennville when only two years old. When only nine years old the family moved to Vale where he attended school and grew to manhood. He was for some time in the livery business in Vale and for years engaged in the stock business. He was married in Vale to Miss Maude Marian Stacey, daughter of another prominent pioneer family, Simon P. and Martha Olive Daniels Stacey. She was born in Silver City, Idaho, and came to the county when three years old, in 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Glenn are the parents of a son, Wesley Stacey Glenn, now a prominent attorney of Covina, California. He was born in Vale in 1903. The Glenns moved to Ontario about 1908, then went to Seattle, Washington, in 1918. Mr. Glenn was chosen brand inspector for the *Oregon Cattle & Horse Raisers Association*. He held this position for the next five years and then became a salesman for the Barton-Thebo Commission Company. He was engaged in that capacity in Seattle for the next twenty-three years until he resigned in December, 1946, and went to Covina, California, to join his son, Wesley, in the orange business. They are the owners of a fine orange grove there.

Wesley S. Glenn's wife is the former May Newton, of Spokane, Washington. They are the parents of two children, a daughter ten and a son seven. Wesley graduated from the University of Washington when his parents were living in Seattle and is now associated with a law firm in Covina, California.

Walter M. Glenn is a former president of the *Malheur County Pioneer Association*, having been chosen while he was living in Seattle.

SIMON P. STACEY and his wife, the former Miss Martha O. Daniel, were both natives of Devonshire, England. After their marriage they resided at the old Stacey home that had been the estate of the Stacey family for many generations. In 1870 they migrated to the United States and settled in Homesdale, Pennsylvania. Three years later they came west to Silver City, Idaho, and in 1878 came to lower Willow creek. Four years later they located their permanent home on the south side of the Malheur river, twelve miles above Vale where Mr. Stacey engaged in farming and stock raising. S. P. Stacey became one of the most prominent citizens of that section, where he resided until his death on February 21, 1901. Mrs. Stacey resided on the old home place with her family until she was called by death. They were the parents of Fred W. Stacey, who married Viola Goodrich; Harley Stacey; Maude, who became the wife of Walter M. Glenn; Lottie, who married Joseph C. Kelley, now deceased; Minnie, married Dr. Smith and now resides in Alaska.

Fredrick P., the oldest son, was born in Devonshire, England, May 8, 1863, and came to this country with his parents when seven years old and to Silver City at the age of ten. Here Fred attended school in the winter and rode the range for Idaho stockmen during the summer. In 1882 he started riding for the Pacific Live Stock Company and continued with them for the next five years, the latter part of which time he was range foreman at the Harper. In 1901, he engaged in the stock business with his younger brother, Harley, under the name of Stacey Bros. Fred Stacey, who had resided in the Vale vicinity for 65 years, died at his home in that city December 18, 1945, at the age of 83.

LOUIS B. RINEHART, who turned the first range cattle loose in the northern part of Malheur county and built the historic Stone House at Vale, which formed the nucleus from which the county seat town sprang, has been very appropriately called "the father of Vale." The Rinehart buttes, across the river from Vale, were named for him. He was a son-in-law of William S. Glenn. His wife, Amelia Glenn Rinehart, was the oldest of the four Glenn sisters. The Rineharts were the parents of one son, Arthur W. Rinehart. He studied law, was admitted to the Oregon bar, and for some years practiced law at Vale. In 1883 the Rineharts leased the Stone House hotel to their brother-in-law, H. C. Murray, and moved to Mrs. Rinehart's girlhood home in Union county. Mr. Rinehart was a representative in the

Oregon legislature from Union county in 1886-87 and materially aided in the passage of the act creating Malheur county. Mrs. Rinehart secured the deed to the land upon which the original townsite of Vale was located and donated the city block upon which the court house is located to the county.

JOHN PEDERSON, the first settler on the Malheur river above Vale, having located there in 1865, was born in Denmark in August, 1828. For some years he followed the life of a sailor. Later he came with his parents to New York and then to New Orleans. From the latter city he went up the Mississippi river by steamboat to St. Louis. From there he crossed the plains to Utah in 1858. Two years later he went to California. On July 7, 1860, in Alpine county, California, he married a widow, Mrs. Adelia Riddles. Mrs. Pederson, whose maiden name was Johnson, came to California by ox team with her parents from Iowa in 1847. She had three daughters, Martha, Mary and Celia, by her first marriage. The Pedersons resided in Alpine county on a farm until 1863 when they came to Willow creek. Two years later, Mr. Pederson took a quarter section homestead on the south side of the Malheur river, four miles above Vale, and built a private irrigation ditch from the river. This energetic and highly respected citizen made his home here for the next thirty-four years, until taken by death, May 17, 1899. The Pedersons were the parents of the following: John O., George, Nellie, Samuel, Elizabeth, Olive, Alda, Ruby and Vesta May. George and Nellie were twins. John married Alice Gillerman; Nellie became the wife of J. Benning; Lizzie married S. Adams; Ollie married Jake Davis, younger brother of Dick and Box Davis.

WILLIAM MORFITT, SR., who has been called "the father of Ontario," was born in Yorkshire, England, April 17, 1838, the son of James and Susan Morfitt. When he was but four years old the family came to the United States, landing in New York in 1842. In 1847 they crossed the plains in a wagon train bound for Oregon. The train was attacked several times by Indians along the road and once after reaching the Rogue river. From Fort Hall they followed the southern route. About half of their stock was stolen by Indians while passing through the Modoc country. They first settled at the mouth of the Yamhill river and later located at Oregon City, which at that time was only a small village. William Morfitt's father, a foundryman by trade, opened the first iron foundry at Oregon City, which was also the first iron foundry in Oregon Territory. William Morfitt attained a good education including a course in civil engineering. With his father he joined the gold rush to California in 1849, making the ocean trip to California by sail boat. In 1850 they returned to Oregon City. In 1855 young Morfitt enlisted in the Clackamas Company of Oregon Volunteers and fought in the Yakima war, after which he returned home and followed farming. On March 11, 1858, William Morfitt was married to Miss Juliette

Worsham, a sister of Robert W. Worsham, another early day pioneer of the Eldorado section. To Mr. and Mrs. Morfitt the following six children were born: James, Robert, William L., Cyrus, Iona and Charles H. In 1867 the Morfitt family moved to Grant county and later to Boise. In partnership with a Mr. Libby, Mr. Morfitt built the first wagon bridge across the Boise river at Boise. In 1868 he brought his family to the Eldorado mining district and selected a land claim upon which Malheur City was located two years later. Mr. Morfitt served as a scout in the Bannock-Piute Indian war of 1878. He built the first flour mill in the county at Malheur City, which was operated by water power.

In 1883 Mr. Morfitt filed on a desert land claim in the immediate vicinity of Ontario and which is now embraced in the Ontario city limits. In company with James W. Virtue, Daniel Smith and Mrs. Mary Richardson, who had also filed on desert claims adjoining the Morfitt claim, he organized the Ontario Townsite Company. The original townsite was surveyed and plotted by Mr. Morfitt on the J. W. Virtue claim. Mr. Morfitt built the first business house, dwelling and livery barn in the city. After the town was firmly established as a railroad station, Mr. Morfitt and his family returned to Malheur City in the fall of 1886.

Mrs. Morfitt died at Malheur City in 1893. In 1895 Mr. Morfitt was married for the second time, the lady of his choice being Miss Elizabeth Carlisle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Carlisle, and a native of the county, having been reared near Ironside. Two sons were born to them, Julian and Ashton. Soon after his second marriage the Morfitts returned to the Ontario vicinity, where he erected a substantial farm house, large barn and out-buildings about a mile southwest of town. About 1908 he sold this place and went to Sherman county where he became interested in the Redmond townsite. He died at The Dalles a few years later. After Mr. Morfitt's death the widow returned to Malheur City. She now resides in Ontario.

ROBERT W. WORSHAM was born in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, April 30, 1839, the son of Robert and Emiline Elgin Worsham. He resided on a farm in his native state until 1852, when at the age of thirteen, he came west with his parents to Oregon in an emigrant train of eighteen wagons. The trip was without special incident, with the exception of the deaths of four members of the party from cholera. This was the year of the great cholera scourge. The Worsham family settled on a half-section of land near Oregon City. Provisions were exceptionally costly at that time. Flour sold for thirty dollars a barrel and potatoes for five dollars a bushel. All the meat they had was what game they could kill. In 1859, at the age of twenty, young Robert went to the mines on Thompson and Fraser rivers in British Columbia. Indians were quite troublesome and his party was finally driven out. Returning to Clackamas county he bought a farm near the old home place, and on April 11, 1861, married Miss Lucy E. Wingfield, daugh-

ter of James T. and Hannah Wingfield, of Oregon City. The following children were born to them: Florence, who became the wife of John B. Woodcock; James T., who married Effie T. Craig; David K., who married Sadie Bowman; Claude R. and Walter N. Three other children, Albert, the oldest son, Laura and Charles died when young. In 1862 Mr. Worsham went to the Idaho mines at Florence and Ora Fino, where he met with considerable success. Returning to western Oregon he resumed farming for a short time and then opened a meat market at Oregon City. In 1877 he came to Malheur county and purchased a one hundred and sixty acre farm four miles southeast of Malheur City and engaged in farming and stock raising. Later he added one hundred and sixty acres more to his holdings. Mr. Worsham was a scout in the Indian war of 1878. He followed mining for eight years and became superintendent of the Eldorado mines.

CYRUS T. LOCEY, first saw the light of day at Mineral Point, Wisconsin, September 18, 1835. His parents were Dr. A. R. T. Locey and Alice Howell Locey. While quite young his parents moved to Plattsville, and later to Lancaster, in his native state. At the last named place Dr. Locey was county clerk for a number of years. The mother died there in 1842. The family moved to Galesburg, Illinois, where the father remarried and later they went to St. Joseph, Missouri. In 1846 they started across the plains by ox team, coming directly to Oregon City. It required six months to make the journey. The father settled on a farm and his daughter, an older sister of Cyrus, taught the first term of school in Oregon City during the winter of 1846-47. During the 1849 gold rush the family went to Coloma, California, where Dr. Locey conducted a drug store and hospital. In 1850 the family returned to their old home at Galesburg, Illinois, going by water by way of the Nicaragua route to New Orleans and from there to Galesburg. Cyrus' sister and step-mother were the first American women to travel the Nicaragua route. In 1852 the Loceys again crossed the plains by ox team for a second time coming to Salem and Oregon City. Dr. Locey died the following year, at the time his son, Cyrus, was eighteen years of age. Cyrus Thomas Locey for the next few years worked on steam boats on the Willamette river in the summer months and attended school in the winter. After completing a common school course Cyrus attended the Forrest Grove college at the time Harvey Scott, later editor of the *Portland Oregonian*, was a student there. On January 1, 1860, C. T. Locey and Miss Maria Morfitt were united in marriage. The bride was born in Yorkshire, England, September 14, 1840. When a child she came with her parents to America in 1841, and while yet a young girl came with them to Oregon in a covered wagon train in 1847. She was a sister of William Morfitt, Sr.

After his marriage, Mr. Locey continued steamboating on the Willamette river for twelve years and was a steamboat captain for seven years before he retired. In connection with his steamboat business he had charge

of the portage around the Willamette falls between Oregon City and Chemwa operated by a mule drawn train. In 1872, following his retirement as a river man, he brought his family to upper Willow creek, at that time a part of Baker county. Five years later, 1877, they settled three miles east of Ironside, where he secured six hundred and forty acres of land and devoted his attention to cattle raising and farming. In 1887, when Malheur county was created, C. T. Locey was chosen one of the first two county commissioners.

The Loceys were the parents of eight children. The first two, Clarence T. and Charles W., died young. The third son, Julian D., married Miss Rosetta Duncan; Miss Addie M. Locey became the wife of James A. Lackey; Miss Mary B. married Lewis Hyde; James Ernest married Miss Hattie Derrick. Susie C. died in 1904. Cyrus C. is also deceased. The youngest child, Frederick E., never married.

JAMES MORFITT was the eldest child of William Morfitt, Sr., and Juliette Worsham Morfitt, both of whom had crossed the plains by ox teams with their parents in the early days, locating in western Oregon, where both grew to maturity and were married in Clackamas county. James Morfitt was born near Oregon City, November 26, 1859. In 1868, at the time James was nine years old, the family located on a homestead where the town of Malheur City was established about two years later. On April 17, 1882, James Morfitt and Miss Rosa Ellen Hoffstatter were united in marriage at Clarks-ville, Oregon. Her parents were James D. and Eliza Ann Hoffstatter, who had also come to Oregon by wagon train. The father was a native of eastern Ohio, born July 9, 1824. The mother was born near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, August 15, 1827. The daughter was born in Agency City, Oregon, August 13, 1858.

For over thirty years James Morfitt, Sr., was one of the most distinguished and highly respected citizens of Malheur county, during which time he resided on his large stock farm near Malheur City. For a number of years he operated a sawmill that he established in 1882 on the head of Coontz creek, in Baker county, about ten miles from the Malheur county line. The lumber for some of the first buildings built in Ontario, including the first store building and the first dwelling, both of which were erected by his father in 1883 and 1884, was hauled by R. S. Rutherford from this mill. James Morfitt went with his father to Caldwell, Idaho, in the spring of 1883 when the latter interviewed Robert Strayhorn and secured the depot for Ontario.

James Morfitt was elected county commissioner in 1896. During his six-year term the board of county supervisors constituted Commissioners James Morfitt, G. W. Blanton, Dennis Dyer and Judge J. G. Lamberson.

Mr. Morfitt and his wife lived on their large stock ranch near Malheur City for thirty-three years until he sold the place to Robert Stanfield and

moved to Boise about 1902. Mrs. Morfitt died in Boise and was buried in Morris Hill cemetery. About two years later he was married to Miss Grace Corn. Sometime thereafter they moved to near New Plymouth where they resided on a farm for a number of years and then located at Nelscot where Mrs. Morfitt still resides. James Morfitt died in Salem, September 2, 1946, where he had gone for medical treatment, at the age of 86 years. His death occurred only a little over two months from the date of the death of his son, Frank. Funeral services were held from the Congregational Church in New Plymouth, with interment in Morris Hill cemetery at Boise.

Three children, two sons and a daughter, were born to Mr. Morfitt by his first wife. Frank L., recently deceased, who married Miss Nellie B. Purcell in Ontario, September 17, 1904. He had grown to manhood on his father's stock farm near Malheur City, after which he attended Oregon University at Eugene and a business college in Oakland, California. The year before his marriage Frank Morfitt came to Ontario to accept a position with Malheur Mercantile Co. In 1906, he was elected county clerk of Malheur county. He was born at his father's sawmill in Baker county about twelve miles from Malheur City, September 27, 1883, and died at Ontario from a sudden heart attack July 25, 1946, at the age of 63. Interment was made in the Ontario cemetery. For many years before his death he had made his home in Ontario and New Plymouth, having engaged in farming near the latter place. Survivors are his widow and three daughters, Mrs. J. C. Christiansen, Mrs. J. R. Compton and Mrs. C. E. Harland.

James Morfitt, Jr., second son of Mr and Mrs. James Morfitt, married Miss Margaret Louise Glenn; they reside in Boise. The daughter of James Morfitt, Sr., Gertrude Eloise, is the wife of Lloyd E. Evans. They reside at The Dalles.

Charles Morfitt, youngest brother of James Morfitt, Sr., was born on his father's farm at Malheur City, April 30, 1875, and was only eight years old when the family moved to Ontario in 1883 at the time William Morfitt, Sr. located and surveyed the Ontario townsite. So it appears he was the first child to reside in Ontario. He died at Placerville, California, in 1940, at the age of 65 and is buried there. Robert, William L. and Iona are also deceased. Cyrus, who resides near Unity, Oregon, is the only one of William Morfitt's children by his first wife, now living. A half brother, Julian Morfitt, whose mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Carlisle Morfitt, second wife of William Morfitt, Sr., resides in Ontario. His full brother, Ashton Morfitt, is deceased. Julian, a native son and veteran of World War I, filled the post of Malheur county service officer in 1945-46.

JULIAN D. LOCEY, a nephew of William Morfitt, Sr., was another distinguished pioneer and the fifth sheriff of the county. He was born in Oregon City in 1865, the son of Cyrus T. and Maria Morfitt Locey. In 1873, when eight years old, he accompanied his parents from Oregon City to

Ironside, where most of his life was spent. On January 1, 1886, he married Miss Rosetta Duncan, of Ironside. The bride was the first-born of George M. and Elizabeth Spiller Duncan, who migrated from Kansas in 1880. Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Locey were the parents of Roy, Olive, Don and Percy.

In 1896, Mr. Locey was nominated for the office of sheriff of Malheur county on the populist ticket. Although the party cast less than one-third of the total vote in the county, Mr. Locey ran far ahead of the ticket and came within sixteen votes of being elected. In 1898, he was the nominee of the union forces for the same office and was elected by a very large majority, and was re-elected by an increased vote in 1900.

While serving his second term Julian D. Locey died at St. Elizabeth hospital in Baker City, Thursday, June 27, 1901, at the age of 36 years. The remains were brought back to Ontario where the funeral and interment took place. The following extracts are from the columns of the *Ontario Advocate* of July 7, 1901:

"All that was mortal of Julian D. Locey was laid to rest in the Ontario cemetery last Sunday. The funeral services were conducted by Acacia Lodge A. F. & A. M., No. 118, of which the deceased was an honored member. Funeral sermon was preached by Rev. B. L. Milligan, Chaplain of the Lodge. A delegation of the Woodman of the World from the Malheur City camp also attended the obsequies. The Masons gathered at their temple in the I. O. O. F. building and after holding services marched in a body to the residence of the deceased's brother-in-law, J. A. Lackey, where the remains had lain in state since their arrival in Ontario on the train from Baker City at 5 o'clock Friday evening. The hearse preceded by the members of the order and accompanied by the pallbearers was driven to the opera house where the casket was placed in front of a beautiful catafalque. The funeral cortege marched down the aisle while the organist played a very impressive funeral march. Many beautiful floral offerings were placed on the catafalque and casket, the most noticeable being the compass and square and the W. of W. emblem. After the prayer by the chaplain the choir sang "Lead Kindly Light." The text of the sermon was *1st Cor. XV Chap. 25 verse*, "Then cometh the end." The funeral procession was the largest ever witnessed in Ontario; many were unable to gain admission to the opera house. After the ceremony, the casket was uncovered and the many friends of the deceased filed slowly by; there were few dry eyes as the vast throng passed out of the opera house. The Masonic ritualistic services at the grave were very impressive and were conducted by G. L. King. The pallbearers were: Will R. King, N. U. Carpenter, L. Adam, D. B. Purcell, and C. A. Martin. All the pallbearers were Masons."

JAMES ERNEST and FREDRICK E. LOCEY are both natives of Malheur county. Ernest was born near Eldorado, August 26, 1876. His wife, whose maiden name was Hattie Jane Derrick, was born June 21, 1879, at Great Springs, in Umatilla county. Her father, Jerome Summerfield Derrick, was born near Nashville, Tennessee, February 9, 1841. Her mother, Mary C. Watts-Derricks, was born in Cass county, Missouri, in 1856. J. Ernest Locey and Miss Hattie Jane Derrick were married September 22, 1901.

Ernest Locey and his younger brother, Fred, since their early manhood have been prominent stockmen and farmers of the Ironside vicinity. In partnership they first engaged in raising both cattle and sheep. Having disposed of their sheep some years ago they are now raising only "white-

face" Hereford cattle. In 1925 the two brothers bought the interests of the other heirs in the estate left by their parents. Their father, Cyrus T. Locey, the prominent pioneer who had engaged exclusively in cattle raising, passed away in 1922, and their mother, Maria Morfitt Locey, joined him in death in 1924.

Ernest and his wife, Hattie Derrick Locey, are justly proud of their two children, both of whom are married and are now prominent citizens of the Ironside and Eldora communities. The son, Carroll Elden Locey, has a fine stock ranch near Malheur City and is engaged in raising pure bred Hereford cattle. He was born at Ironside in 1902. His wife, the former Sylvia Harriet Grabner, born September 26, 1903, is a native of Helena, Oklahoma. Their son, Charles Ernest Locey, is a student at the Eastern Oregon College in La Grande. He is now twenty years old and of the fourth generation of the Locey family to reside in Malheur county.

Mrs. Nellie Ernestine Howard, daughter of Ernest and Hattie Locey, was born at Ironside, December 8, 1903. For seventeen years, after her graduation, she was a very successful school teacher, following in the footsteps of her aunt, Mrs. Mary Locey Hyde, of Ontario. Mrs. Ernestine Howard, is the wife of Floyd H. Howard, youngest son of the Baltimore Howards, another prominent pioneer family. They reside on a large stock farm near Ironside. Mrs. Howard's daughter, by a former marriage, Marvis Marie De La Mare, graduated this spring from the University of Oregon.

BALTIMORE HOWARD was born in Shelby county, Illinois, March 3, 1840, the son of Jonathan E. and Margaret Howard. His father was a native of Maryland, and his mother, whose maiden name was Vinden, was a native of Kentucky. He came overland with his parents to Oregon. They crossed the Missouri river at St. Joseph, May 5, 1853, and arrived at Oregon City, August 20, of that year. In 1860, at the age of twenty, he went on a mining expedition to British Columbia. Returning to the Willamette valley in 1861, he proceeded to the Ora Fino mines in Idaho the same year. Returning home that fall, he was the first private to enlist in Company E, 1st Oregon Volunteer Cavalry, under Captain George B. Curry. This regiment was organized to go east to take part in the Civil War under Colonel E. D. Baker, U. S. Senator from Oregon, for whom Baker county was named. But the regiment was detained in Oregon to put down Indian disturbances and did not go east. For the next three years Baltimore Howard was engaged in fighting Indians. He was honorably discharged in 1865. The same year he went to Walla Walla valley and two years later to Boise. In 1868 he came to Eldorado where he engaged in mining and farming. On December 25, 1876, he was married to Miss Fanny Ralston, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Ralston. The following children were born to them: Clarence E., Charles C., Juliet M., Floyd H., Clara R., and Gladys N.

JOHN H. ROSE, the son of Israel and Mary Payton Rose, was born in Ohio on October 3, 1835, in a frontier community and attended school in a log school house. In 1856, he went with his parents to Knox county, Illinois, and the following year to Putman county, Missouri. There on April 2, 1862, he was married to Miss Louise Hastings, daughter of Francis and Corline Hastings. The following day Mr. Rose and his bride started across the plains in a covered wagon drawn by seven yoke of oxen. His parents were members of the same ox drawn wagon train, bound for the Walla Walla valley, where the Rose families spent the winter. The next spring, J. H. Rose returned to Auburn, through which his emigrant train had passed the year before. In 1878, he came with his family to Willow creek. Mr. Rose took up and improved a land claim. He engaged in cattle raising and became one of the prosperous citizens of the community. Mr. and Mrs. Rose were the parents of the following children: Charlotte, who became the wife of Edward Coburn; Angeline, wife of Archie J. Murray; Israel, who married Edna Whiteley; Louise, who became the wife of ex-Sheriff J. E. Lawrence, and is now deceased; and Eli Rose.

JOSHUA L. COLE, a native of Indiana, was born in Ripley county on March 29, 1832, the son of William and Sarah J. Clark Cole. He was raised on a farm and educated in a log school house. On April 1, 1856, he was married to Miss Malinda Wise, daughter of John B. and Nancy McLoughlin Wise. In 1860, the Coles migrated to Scott county, Minnesota, and in the spring of 1864 they crossed the plains with ox team to Boise. In 1868, Mr. Cole came to Malheur county and four years later, 1872, settled on lower Willow creek where he acquired one thousand acres of land to engage in farming and stock raising. He planted a large alfalfa field, in 1881, raised a fine peach orchard and acquired a large apiary, having as many as five hundred stands of bees at one time.

The Coles were the parents of three children: Leonard, Emory and Eldora. The last named became the wife of James Moundy. On June 18, 1896, Mrs. Cole was summoned by death. On May 21, 1898, Mr. Cole contracted a second marriage with Miss Emily Blackwell, of Ripley county, Indiana, a relative of his first wife. In 1901, he sold his ranch and stock to his son, Emory, and took up his residence in Vale. He was one of the organizers of the first bank in Vale and was its first president and manager. The bank was located in a large handsome two-story stone building. After several years residence in Vale, Mr. Cole and his wife went to Long Beach, California, to reside. He died there about seventeen years ago.

The last time I saw Mr. Cole was two years before his death, when A. H. McGregor and I called on him at his home in Long Beach. Mr. McGregor who was visiting with me in Cajon Pass, California, died about a year after his return to Oregon. During the early mining days J. L. Cole freighted between the eastern Oregon and southern Idaho mines.

After our visit with Cole, McGregor related an anecdote of one of Cole's trips, which in a way reveals the shrewd business tact and keen sense of humor of the sturdy old pioneer. According to McGregor, on one of Cole's trips two wayfarers "hitch-hiked" a ride with him between two of the mining camps and "sponged" their meals from him. Both men exhibited a strong appetite for butter, which was high priced and a luxury in the mining camps of that day. They freely helped themselves to the butter, or as some say, "put a little bread on their butter." Growing weary of the imposition, Mr. Cole substituted some yellow axle grease for butter. After their first liberal helping, following the substitution, the two "star boarders" ceased to partake so liberally of the "butter."

WILLIAM L. LOGAN, a native of Tennessee, was born in Nashville on May 31, 1827. His parents were Thomas and Elizabeth Owens Logan. When he was a child the family went to Illinois and from there to Wisconsin. In 1852 they came overland by ox team to Placerville, California, encountering much trouble with Indians on the trip. After growing to manhood, W. L. Logan worked in the mines and dealt in mining stock in many parts of California, Arizona and New Mexico, with headquarters in Sacramento. In 1862 he came north to Walla Walla, and from there went to Lewiston, Florence and the Idaho basin mines. He engaged in freighting supplies from Umatilla Landing on the Columbia to the Idaho City mines. In the winter of 1862-63 his pack train became snowbound at Auburn. While detained there the freighter met a 15-year-old girl, Nancy Jane Harris, a native of Illinois, who had recently come west with her parents in an ox-drawn emigrant train from Iowa. When Mr. Logan resumed his trip Nancy and an older woman accompanied him to Idaho City. At Idaho City on April 18, 1863, William L. Logan and Nancy J. Harris were united in wedlock. Soon after their marriage they located at the junction of the Weiser and Snake rivers where Mr. Logan opened a stage station on the new Auburn-Boise stage line and engaged in farming and stock raising. He built a log cabin, the first house in Weiser, which is still standing. The two oldest sons, William and Thomas, were born there. In the fall of 1868 William L. Logan moved his family to lower Willow creek on what is known as the old Garrison J. Gray place near the present town of Jamieson. The next year with his wife and three small children he located on what is now known as the old Logan place near Brogan where he continued farming and stockraising until his death in 1909. Mrs. Logan survived her husband by twenty-three years. She passed away December 1, 1932, at the age of 85. The Logans were the parents of eleven children, six of whom survived them. The old Logan farm house, built of stone, still stands near Brogan. The 500-acre Logan farm remained in possession of the family for 77 years.

J. THOMAS LOGAN, second son of William L. and Nancy Logan, was born April 9, 1865, in the first log cabin built on the present site of Weiser,

Idaho. As a boy and young man Tom Logan followed the occupation of range rider. As a boy of fifteen he went with a party of cow hands that drove a band of range cattle to what was then the nearest railroad shipping point in Wyoming. Some years later as a range foreman he headed an outfit that drove cattle to summer range in Montana. For more than half a century, Tom Logan was a leading stockman of Malheur county. He was a charter member of the *Oregon Horse & Cattle Raisers' Association* and for twenty-five years served on the board of the executive committee.

On March 27, 1898, J. T. Logan and Miss Mary O'Neill, daughter of another prominent pioneer, the late Frank O'Neill, were united in marriage. They are the parents of three daughters, Mrs. Cecil Brown, of Portland; Mrs. Gladys Pugh, of Brogan; and Mrs. Myrtle DeChaine, of Paso Robles, California. On August 4, 1947, Mr. Logan was summoned by the grim reaper at the age of 82. Besides his widow and three daughters he is survived by four brothers, Oscar, of Weiser; Dave, of Brogan; R. L. and A. W., of Port Orchard, Wash. For 79 years this distinguished pioneer was a continuous resident of Malheur county. J. T. Logan, his parents and other relatives are buried in the family plot at Jamieson.

DAVID DUNBAR, one of the first pioneers to settle in the immediate vicinity of Ontario, was a native of Ontario, Canada. He was born near Kingston, on February 5, 1849, being the son of James and Eliza Laird Dunbar. He was raised on a farm and obtained his education from the common schools in that province. His mother died in 1866, when David was seventeen years old, and that fall he left home to make his way in the world. He first went to New York and from there went by steamship to San Francisco. During the winter of 1866-67 he worked on the Union Pacific railroad at Truckee, Nevada. In the spring he went by steamboat from the Golden Gate to Portland, where he joined a saddle train bound for the Idaho basin. Here he mined for awhile and then freighted between Kelton, Utah, and Silver City, Idaho. He then purchased a band of horses and drove them to Montana where he sold them and bought work and stock cattle, which he drove back to Silver City. He sold the work cattle and brought the stock cattle to the vicinity of Ontario. He located on a two hundred acre wild hay ranch near the Snake river in 1869, southeast of where Ontario now stands, and engaged in raising cattle. In 1880, Mr. Dunbar drove a band of his cattle to Laramie, Wyoming, and from there shipped them to the Chicago market, after which he visited his former home in Canada. In 1885 he filed on one hundred and sixty acres of sage brush land a little over a mile south of Malheur butte, most of which he cleared and seeded to alfalfa. In the fall of 1890, Mr. Dunbar again visited his old home in Canada and there on March 30, 1891, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Mason, daughter of George and Margaret Calder Mason. He brought his bride to Ontario and a few years later bought the G. L. King

city residence and remodeled it into a substantial home in the south part of town. Here they made their home in the winter to send their children to school. They were the parents of three children: Margaret, Ralph, and Helen. Margaret is the wife of C. W. Trow, Ontario's present postmaster.

JOHN S. EDWARDS, another prominent early day stockman, was born in Oskaloosa, Iowa, November 23, 1849, the son of Thomas D. and Barbara Rinehart Edwards. In 1854 the parents migrated by ox team to Lane county, Oregon, passing through what is now Malheur and Harney counties. The wagon train of which they were members lost some stock that was stolen by Indians along the road. The father settled on government land in Lane county and began farming. In the spring of 1871, J. S. Edwards, at that time twenty-one, left his home and came to the Vale Stone House, which was owned by his uncle, L. B. Rinehart. Two years later, Johnny, by which name he was familiarly called by all who knew him, located on lower Willow creek and started raising cattle and horses. He acquired about nine hundred acres, four hundred of which was excellent bottom land and the rest grazing land. On July 27, 1876, Mr. Edwards was married in Union, Oregon, to Miss Sarah F. Smith, daughter of George W. and Rebecca Smith. Mrs. Edwards, also a native of Iowa, crossed the plains with her parents in 1864 by ox team, and settled in Union county. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards were the parents of nine children: Thomas O. and Nora M., both of whom died young. The third child, Pearl E., graduated from the Weston Normal School and became one of the prominent pioneer school teachers of the county. The other children were Harry A., Alma R., Phil E., Erma E., Clarence B. and Willard R. Edwards. Willard, the youngest, married Miss Dottie Crummett, a prominent newspaper woman, writer and columnist. After her husband's death in Ontario on May 30, 1934, Dottie Edwards resumed her newspaper work and sometime later became editor of a Catholic journal of nation-wide circulation in Kansas City, Missouri.

In the June election of 1890, J. S. Edwards was the republican candidate for county clerk. E. H. Test, the democratic candidate, was elected. For a number of years Mr. Edwards was president of the First National Bank of Vale. His second son, Phil E., died in Ontario July 28, 1947.

WILLIAM G. THOMSON, one of Malheur county's most distinguished early day pioneers, was born December 6, 1849, in Lawrence county, Arkansas, the son of James and Virginia Meek Thompson. When but four years old he came west with his parents in an ox drawn wagon train in 1853. There were about fifty wagons in the train and it took them about six months to make the overland trip from Arkansas to the Willamette valley. The Thomson family settled at Cloverdale, where the father built a log cabin on his homestead, and here the children grew up. In 1866 the family changed their location, settling near Castle Rock, where the father engaged in cattle raising. "Billy," by which name W. G. Thomson was familiarly known, at-

tended Whitman Seminary at Walla Walla, which is now the Whitman College. In 1866, at the age of seventeen, he taught his first school at Pilot Rock. Later he attended Willamette University. In 1871, the father, James Thomson, located on lower Willow creek, a short distance below the present town of Brogan. That year, after bringing his father's cattle to the Willow creek ranch, W. G. Thomson returned to Pilot Rock and married Miss Minnie Olcot. In September, 1872, he brought his bride to the Willow creek valley and purchased the land on which the present town of Brogan is now located. On this land he built his own frame house and made his own furniture. Professor Thomson taught his first school in the county in the winter of 1873-74 in a frame school house just below the present town of Jamieson, between the Norwood place and the J. L. Pope store. He had about thirty pupils, ranging in age from six years to young men and women, in eight different grades. The text books were not uniform, most of the pupils having brought their books with them from the twelve different states from which they migrated, and not more than six books were alike. The first three children born to the Thompsons, Ethel, Chester and Edith, all died when quite young, within less than a week of each other, during an epidemic of diphtheria at their home on Willow creek. Their daughter, Mrs. Nellie Corral, of Vale, has for many years been a leading school teacher in the county. She succeeded her father, who was the first secretary of the *Malheur County Pioneer Association*, which office she has continually held. Their other daughter, Mrs. Mame Powell, is the widow of the late Charles W. Powell, of Ontario.

Mr. Thomson served as a scout and messenger under General O. O. Howard in the Bannock-Piute Indian war of 1878 and was the last survivor of the local scouts. Mr. Thomson was the first school superintendent of Malheur county. When A. G. King was elected county clerk on the democratic ticket in 1898, he selected Mr. Thomson as his deputy, which position "Uncle Billy" held during King's two terms in office. Following A. G. King's retirement W. G. Thomson was nominated and elected on the democratic ticket for county clerk in 1904 and re-elected in 1906, making eight years he was a faithful public official in the county clerk's office. Mr. Thomson was very active in public matters during most of his long eventful life and was clerk of the Vale school board at the time of his death. He was a lifelong democrat. Mr. Thomson died at his home in Vale in September, 1939, at the advanced age of ninety years.

WILLIAM O'BRIEN was a native of Limmerick county, Ireland. At an early age he studied for the priesthood, but changed his mind and later went to sea. After following the life of a sailor for a number of years he settled in the United States and became a naturalized citizen. He came to Boise basin in the Sixties where he mined for some time and then came to the Eldorado mining district in 1868 where he continued to follow mining.

About 1874, he located a homestead on the Malheur river adjoining the G. W. Brinnon place on the west and engaged in raising range horses. His horses ranged in the breaks around the head of Jacobson gulch. Like the Brinnon ranch, the O'Brien ranch was on both sides of the river. In 1882, Mr. O'Brien's sister Ellen, who had come from her "old home in Ireland, from over the sea," arrived here to keep house for "Billy," as everyone called him. Soon after her arrival she took up a homestead on the Malheur. In 1886, Nell O'Brien married Dennis Dyer, a prominent stockman and went to make her home on Dead Ox Flat, across the river from Weiser.

William O'Brien died at the home of his sister, Mrs. Dennis Dyer, in Weiser in 1932. He was an uncle of J. E. Dyer, the banker.

ROBERT M. DIVIN was born in Lincoln county, Tennessee, December 17, 1831, the son of Irbin F. and Hannah Divin. His father died when he was only two years old, following the arrival of the family in Washington county, Arkansas. There were very few settlers in that locality at that time and he attended school in a rough log school house. He remained with his mother until he grew to manhood. In 1851, Mr. Divin married Miss Mary J. Kellam, a native of Little Rock. For the next nine years he engaged in farming in Arkansas. In 1860, he took his family to West Texas in the Comanche Indian country. For three years he was a member of the state home guard and engaged in many battles with Indians. In 1865 the Divin family returned to Arkansas. In 1870, accompanied by his wife and his mother and the rest of the family, he migrated to Clackamas county, Oregon, by way of Omaha, San Francisco and Portland. In 1875 they came to the Ironsides section where Mr. Divin engaged in stock raising. In 1879 he disposed of his stock interests and farm and came to Vale where he and his wife resided until their deaths. They were the parents of ten children, only two of whom lived to maturity. They were Irbin S. F. Divin, who married Miss Josephine Wisdom, and Ambrose F. Divin, who married Miss Mollie Wisdom, both daughters of John Wisdom.

IRBIN F. S. DIVIN was born in the state of Arkansas in 1854 and came with his parents to Western Oregon when he was sixteen years old. In 1875 he came with the family to upper Willow creek and engaged with his father in raising stock and farming. In 1877 he was married to Miss Josephine Wisdom, a native of Cook county, Texas. She crossed the plains with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Wisdom, from Benton county, Arkansas, in 1874. The family settled in Cow valley in 1877. Mr. Divin served as a scout under General Howard in the Indian war of 1878. Mr. Divin continued in the stock business near Ironside until 1886 when he located with his family on the Malheur river a short distance above Vale. He also engaged in the merchandising business in Vale. Mr. Divin resided in the county seat town until his death on July 2, 1936, at the age of eight-one years. Mrs. Divin continued to reside in Vale until her death on January

23, 1941, at the age of eighty years. They were the parents of five children: James I., Vernon, Ernest, Harlin and Minnie. The eldest son, James I. Divin married Miss Winnie Purcell, daughter of Daniel B. and Elizabeth Draper Purcell. They reside in Ontario. Vernon Divin now resides in California, Ernest Divin makes his home in Boise and Harlan Divin lives in Caldwell. Mrs. Minnie Ewart and husband have their home in Hartford, Connecticut.

JAMES IRBIN DAVIN, a native son of Malheur county, spent his boyhood and early manhood in the Vale vicinity where he graduated from school and became a businessman. For a number of years he has resided in Ontario where he is local manager of the *Baker Production Credit Association*. His wife is the former Clara Winnifred Purcell, third child of the late Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Purcell, and a native daughter of Ontario, born in 1901. The Divins are the parents of three children, two sons and a daughter. The daughter married Floyd Hager, Jr.

The eldest son, Daniel I. Divin, was assistant manager of the Ontario branch of the United States Bank of Portland. This member of the fourth generation of the Divin family to reside in Malheur county was born in Vale in 1910. After graduating from the Ontario high school he attended the University of Oregon where he majored in accounting, after which he became an employee of the Ontario National Bank. After five years in agricultural and business enterprises he became associated with the U. S. National Bank in this city. Starting as a bookkeeper, Dan Divin was promoted to teller in the collection and savings division and gradually rose to the position of chief clerk. He assumed the position of assistant manager November 1, 1947. He was a member of the food panel for the Malheur County Rationing Board during World War II. Mr. Divin recently passed away. He leaves a widow and a three-year old son.

James H. Divin, the youngest son, was graduated from Ontario high school in 1942. He served three years in the Army Air Corps in World War II, and at present is going to college at the University of Michigan.



CHAPTER 11

ISLE OF THE LONG AGO

*There's a magical Isle up the River Time
Where the softest of airs are playing,
There's a cloudless sky and a tropical clime
And the Junes with roses are staying;
And the name of this Isle is the Long Ago
And we bury our treasures there.
There are fragments of songs that nobody sings,
There are trinkets and tresses of hair;
There's a harp unswept and a lute without strings,
And part of an infant's prayer;
And we sometimes hear through the turbulent roar
Sweet voices we heard in the days gone before
When the wind down the river is fair.*

—B. F. Taylor.

Reminiscences are here recorded of some of the pioneer mothers in which are given realistic portrayals of many difficulties encountered by early settlers. The first are extracts from letters written by Mrs. Nancy C. Glenn, who crossed the plains in 1862 from Pleasantville, Iowa, to the Grande Ronde valley. Her husband, William S. Glenn, was captain of a large train of forty wagons. Through the kindness of her son, Frank B. Glenn, of Vale—who through the years has sacredly preserved these documents—I am permitted to quote the following extracts.

The first letter from which I quote was written by Mrs. Glenn to her parents, William and Mary A. Beckwith, of Pleasantville, Iowa, August 10, 1862, one week after the arrival of the train in Grande Ronde valley.

"Dear father, mother, sisters and brothers: After so long a silence I am permitted to write a few lines to let you know that we are all yet upon the land of the living. I doubt not that you have had many fears concerning our safety crossing the plains if you have heard of the many depredations by Indians. We are all here but William and Talbert. They started day before yesterday down to The Dalles, 180 miles, after a load of provisions. We arrived at the upper end of this valley the first day of this month. The next day we went across to a little town called Grand Rond City, not knowing where we would stop or where we would spend the winter. We stopped there, hearing that Fletcher Pittman and John Lewis had stopped about 15 miles below us. The next day Robert Logan,

Isaac Glenn and William went down to see them. Found that Fletcher had gone after provisions; the rest of the folks have gone to the Willamette Valley.

"He stayed on account of wintering his cattle. Pittmans lost a great many of their cattle; had to buy about \$300 worth on the road. When they got here Fletcher bought the rest out and hauled them down to The Dalles where they would take a boat for Portland. We received your kind letter at Ft. Laramie and were truly glad to hear from you, but sorry to hear of the deaths among our old neighbors. We also sent you a letter from there and expected to have an opportunity of sending one every week or two but were disappointed in that, as in many other things, as they have moved the stock from there to another route after we passed there. We started from there out into the Black Hills and I thought they were the most beautiful of anything I had seen on the road. They remind me of the dear old home of my childhood, and soon the unbidden tear was finding its way down my cheek. Yes, I do often think of that place and some dear ones there, but not so often as I do of my once happy home in Iowa, and the dear ones there that such a short time ago could soothe and cheer my heart by their presence. But now, what a change; no father nor mother, sister nor brother to cheer my home. Think of me when you enjoy each other's society and think also what a blessing it is to be where you can see each other often. But I do not despair, I hope we will be able to say, 'His will be done.'"

"When we left Sweetwater we took Landers' cut-off, represented to be a saving of about one hundred miles, and a good road, which we found to be so, except where the high water had washed and spoiled the road. We had not traveled more than fifty or sixty miles on this road until we came to where the Indians had stolen some emigrant's horses and in trying to get them back the Indians had killed one man and badly wounded two more. This was done but a few days before we got there. You, nor anyone else, would have thought that there ever could have been such a good road made over such a country, but there has been a great deal of work done on the Landers' cut-off. I wish I could have had a chance to have written some more on the road as I cannot remember exactly every place that I wanted to tell you about.

"Well, we came on, and one day we had just got up a big hill, and there was buried a man found by some of the emigrants supposed to be killed by Indians. He was buried but six inches under the ground, for they could not move him, as he had been dead so long. But we believed he had been killed by white men, as the ferrymen at Fort Hall could tell us all about him and how much money he had. They said he had five thousand dollars and his name was Campbell, from Denver. But he was killed by Indians, as there was a company of emigrants crossed the river at Fort Hall, and came down on the north side of Snake river, and saw an Indian with a nice gold watch and it had Campbell's name inside of it, and one of them traded something to the Indian and got the watch. He has since come to Powder river where he met with Campbell's brother and let him have the watch. They said also that the Indians had plenty of twenty dollar gold pieces coined in Denver and plenty of treasury notes. They do not know anything about the value of money. They would give a \$20 gold piece for a blanket or anything of that kind; so the Indians likely killed him. There is no doubt in my mind but there are plenty of white men on the plains that are as bad as Indians dare be, and I think that some of them were there at the Snake river ferry at Fort Hall.

"Well, we came on, and before we got to Fort Hall we came to where some men from Denver had been attacked by the Indians. There were but six men and it seems to me they said there were thirty or forty Indians. They killed four men and wounded another so severely that he soon died. One man alone made his escape, went on and overtook a train, and some of them went back and found the bodies of the four men that had been killed; they were all scalped. They buried them all in one grave, but the man that had been wounded they could not find. They were killed on Saturday. We passed there the Tuesday following. We had a company of about forty wagons and some of our men were walking all the time; sometimes they would be out a half-mile from the road. This morning as they were walking along about a quarter of a mile from the road they discovered the body of a man. They sent to have captain—that was William—come down and say what they should do with him. They brought him up near the road, where his clothes were searched to see if they could discover what his name was, but they could find nothing. Here they buried him, leaving his coat

and boots, I think on the grave, thinking someone might recognize them. I told you there was but one escaped, but as we afterward found out, this man that we buried had his wife with him. And those ferrymen at Fort Hall, who were Mormons, said they had sent her to Salt Lake, telling her they had found her husband and buried him. As we were traveling along Burnt river we met a large train of packers going prospecting to the Boise river. They said they had been a company that had been driven off by Indians.¹ They think there will be as rich mines discovered there as on Salmon river. Well, in this train was the man who made his escape from the Indians. He told William all about it. He had heard that our company had found and buried that man and he thanked them very much and said he would write to the man's wife and tell her about it. He said he thought they killed twelve or fourteen of the Indians but they had taken them all away before they got back and everything in their wagons that they wanted.

"Well, we came on, and between Fort Hall and Salmon falls we came to where a company of thirteen wagons had been attacked by the savages. We thought, by the looks, that they had run and left their wagons and the Indians had taken what they wanted, for from the quantity of feathers there they must have emptied as much as six or seven good beds and there were lots of things scattered around. I tell you some of our women began to be a little frightened. Well, four or five miles from here we came to where five men were buried that they had killed out of the same train, and soon to where a woman was buried that was wounded at the same time.²

"Saturday, 11th: Well, I will now tell you something about the old neighbors that left Iowa last spring. Uncle Alonzo, Harry, Dr. Williams, Mr. Vollett, A. Terwilinger, Terry Tuttle, Harrison Logan stopped up at the Powder river mines, about fifty miles from where we are now, about thirty miles from the upper end of this valley. P. M. Logan, Uncle Mac, Mr. Lafollette, Mr. Titus, Mr. Prodes, Thomas Glenn, S. Glenn have started for the Willamette valley. They left their loose cattle here and calculate to send the work cattle back to have them wintered here. They had bad luck with their stock; lost all they started with but one yoke of oxen and a cow. We lost two steers. Tell Mrs. Cassidy or Rachel that David is with them and all are well. Mr. Conn, I. Logan and ourselves are here.

"This is one of the most beautiful valleys in the world, surrounded by high mountains. William thinks it is the most beautiful valley he ever saw, with plenty of the nicest timber and the best springs in the world, almost. I wish you were here and had provisions enough until you could raise some. But nearly all of the emigrants that went down into Oregon this year intend coming back as soon as they can get back in the spring, and I expect the land will all be claimed up. There is a real good valley on Powder river. We thought some of stopping there, but concluded it would be too cold there this winter. There is also a good valley on the Umatilla river. William liked the country down where Pitman and Lewis are so well that he sent us down the day he started. We are all camped close together and have not one of us got a house put up yet. Mr. Kincaid is at work for us and Mr. Conn is going down with Tom to bring the cattle back.

"Girls, I have gotten to be quite a mule driver. I drove a good deal on the road. I will now tell you what I have heard about the Salmon river mines. We concluded not to go up there this fall, as we heard at Fort Hall we could only get there by coming down past Walla Walla, and then we must pack for thirty miles. Well, I saw a woman that had just come from there. I saw her in Powder valley. She said she lived in Willamette valley when she was at home. She said that her husband was packing to the Powder river mines. She said the mines were as rich there as they had ever been represented to be. She had seen them get from one pan of dirt \$30 or \$40. She told me also that there was a man that went there that had lived three years with them in Oregon and he had sent a good deal of gold dust back by express and when he started home he had a leather sack made on purpose, not quite as wide as a 50 lb. flour sack but as long, and he had it plum full of little sacks of gold dust when he started home. She said he was almost afraid. But the gold mines there are not very extensive. I think they say eight miles square cover the whole mines, that will pay to work at all. A great many think the Powder river mines will pay pretty well. William thinks

1. These prospectors were evidently members of the Grimes party returning to the Boise basin, after being driven out by Indians.

2. These were some of the emigrants murdered by Indians at Massacre Rocks, ten miles west of American Falls.

there is a great deal of good mining country around Burnt river, Powder river, and all along there.

"I will now give you the price of provisions here. We had a plenty to have lasted a year but we sold a good deal of it when we concluded not to go to Salmon river. There were a great many out of groceries on the road. At Grand Rond City flour is \$15.00 per hundred, bacon 30 cents per pound, beef 8 to 12 cents per pound, onions 30 cents per pound, potatoes 10 cents, coffee 50 cents, sugar 40 cent, tea 80 cents per lb. On the road our company had good luck as to sickness until we came to Snake river. Here a good many took the diarrhea and Harrison Logans buried their youngest child; and in about a week Terry Tuttles and Mr. and Mrs. Tilluses their youngest. One died in the night and the other in the morning. They were buried side by side."

* * * * *

"Grand Round Valley, Oregon, May 9, 1863: Dear parents, sisters and brothers: Through the mercy of our Heavenly Father I am permitted to write a few lines to you in answer to your kind letters of December 1st and January 19th, which came to hand since I wrote to Uncle Edwin . . .

"The children often talk about you. Arthur wanted to know of me one day how we would get over the mountains when we wanted to go to grandpa's . . .

"From your affectionate child and sister, Nancy C. Glenn, to William and M. A. Beckwith, and brothers and sisters. Direct your letters to Ft. Walla Walla, or Grand Round Valley."

* * * * *

"Summerville, Oregon, November 20, 1870:

"This is the 20th, and I will again try to write a few lines. Tonight finds us all well that are at home. William has been gone a little over two weeks up to Snake river . . . Luella has been sick since last Sunday with scarlet rash; was very sick for about four days, but is so she can be up some now. Some call it the scarlet fever; it seems to be catching . . . I asked Frank a few minutes ago if he did not want to go to bed. He put his hand up to his head and said: 'I have got a little fever, I think.' He thinks if I think he is not very well I will let him sleep with me. He tells me something of that kind every night now his father is away . . . Well, I expect you will think strange of my using so many kinds of ink. The children spilt what I first commenced with. Sunday night I wrote with their blue ink. Tonight they have taken it to writing school."

FIRST WHITE WOMAN TO LOCATE IN WASHOE

The following reminiscences of the pioneer experiences of Mrs. Susan D. Stroup the first white woman to settle in Washoe in the Seventies, which were published in the Pioneer section of the *Idaho Statesman* in 1925, is here given, with some slight variations. Soon after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Stroup, accompanied by Mrs. Stroup's cousin, Wright Shafer, left Alba, Missouri, for Walla Walla, where they intended to make their home. Mrs. Stroup's story follows:

"On March 19, 1873, we left Carthage, Missouri, by rail to Omaha, Nebraska, and from there over the Union Pacific, which was new at that time, to Ogden, Utah. We stopped here for eleven days, getting rooms in a house occupied by a Mormon named Leavitt and his two wives. We bought a team of mules, wagon and camping outfit and drove from Ogden to the Washoe ferry on Snake river. We traveled through on the old Kelton-to-Boise stage road, taking about three weeks to make the trip. I was but eighteen years of age at that time. The country was new, desolate, uninhabited, and to my mind—ignorant of what the west would be like—it was wild and terrifying.

"The Goose Creek mountains we had to cross were deep in snow and slush, the road being almost impassable. A stage station at intervals, a freight team here and there on the road, were the only breaks in the monotony of miles and miles of sage brush plain or rough hills.

"We crossed Snake river at Glenns ferry, stayed one day and night at the

ferry, watching the Indians fish for salmon. We were most cordially invited by Mr. Glenn and his young wife to eat our meals with them in the house. Mrs. Glenn was lonely and was glad to meet us and hear from the outside world. They treated us like old friends with true western hospitality. When we were leaving Mrs. Glenn came out to the wagon, said she hated to see us go so badly she wanted to say good-by.

"Driving off the road one day at noon for dinner into a little grassy valley, the men had unhitched the team and we were fixing for our lunch, when a bunch of eighteen or twenty Indians came along the road. They were carrying guns, had their faces painted, and feathers were sticking in their hair. They left the road and came out to our camp. I pulled my sunbonnet down over my face and sat still on the wagon tongue, fearing to move or look at them. The men tried to talk to them, but they were surly and unfriendly, talking among themselves and looking us over, but no 'How,' or friendly sign was made to us. At last, after what seemed an eternity to me, they turned back to the road and went on their way. This being the year of the Modoc Indian war in the lava beds of California, it was reported that the Idaho Indians were cross and ready for depredations.

"Arriving in Boise, we stopped near the old Overland hotel, did some trading at Falk Bros. store, drove on down the Boise valley and camped.

"In the Payette valley the first house we came to was the Sims home. Farther on in the valley was Falks' store, kept at that time by Ed Shainwald. About three or four miles farther down the valley was another store kept by A. J. McFarland, who also kept the postoffice. A few miles west of this last store we left the stage road and drove to the Washoe ferry on Snake river, where we camped for the night. John Emison was running the ferry at that time. His brother, Will Emison and wife, also lived at the ferry house on the Oregon side. Jim Henoty and Mr. Donahue, two bachelors, lived on the Idaho side of the river at the ferry, each in his own cabin on either side of the road.

"A short distance above the ferry on the Oregon side, George Brinnon, wife and four children lived near the mouth of the Malheur. Above them on the Malheur near the butte, Macomb Smith, his wife and three children were running a milk ranch. The next day after we reached the ferry was Sunday and the Smith and Brinnon families were at the ferry that day visiting. Seeing a woman in camp, they came across the river to see us, pleased as much as Mrs. Glenn had been to see people from 'back home.'

"The Smiths took us home with them and prevailed on us to remain several days and look over the land. They lived in a small log house near the river and were milking thirty or forty head of cows, making butter which they marketed in the Idaho mines at 75 cents and \$1.00 a pound. Mr. Smith and his wife, to whom we were entire strangers, welcomed us with true western hospitality, treated us like relatives, took us in their home and insisted on us sitting at table with them, and in every way made us welcome.

"We decided to stop for a rest, and the upshot of it was, Mr. Stroup staked off a claim on the 'Malhu,' as it was then called, but never filed on it. We unloaded our wagon and lived in a cabin, made of willow logs, about four months. During this time Mr. Stroup and Mr. Smith went to Silver City. Mr. Stroup to see the mines and Mr. Smith to market the butter. Mrs. Smith, her three small children and myself were alone all the daytime. An old miner, Bill Cole, stayed there at nights. At that time the Modoc Indian war was going on in southern Oregon and northern California lava beds.

"One Sunday morning two Indians on horseback, with faces hideously painted and with feathers in their hair, carrying guns and tomahawks, who we afterward heard were on their way to the lava beds, stopped at the gate and sat there looking at the house and muttering to one another. Mrs. Smith finally mustered up courage and walked out to the gate, saying 'How! How!' The Indians looked sullen and cross and made no reply. It was my first experience, and I watched them from the inside of the house, frozen with fright.

"She and I both thought they meant mischief. Finally one said to her, 'Man? Man?' She kept saying, 'Man come soon,' pointing toward the river and looking expectantly, although we were alone and the men were in Silver City, miles away. They grew uneasy and finally rode on toward the butte. We were alone and must bear our fear as best we could, but we both felt Mrs. Smith had saved us when she told the Indians that the men would come soon.

"After looking over the Malheur and Snake river valleys, Mr. Stroup took up

land in Washoe bottom under the pre-emption right in August, 1873, and built a small house on the place. He hauled the lumber from Emmettville—the name is now shortened to Emmett—paying \$40 per one thousand for rough lumber, and hauled it thirty miles to build a one-room house, 12x14. We went to Boise and bought a small cook stove, paying \$60 for it (greenbacks at that time were discounted \$10 on the \$100) set up our stove in the new room and here we began life in the West. Our chairs and table were home made; the bedstead was built against the wall and had but one leg. The underneath place was boarded up and used the first winter to hold some wheat which Mr. Stroup bought to sow in the spring.

"I lived in much dread of the Indians, who roamed through the valley without hindrance, and the outlook to me, was not very encouraging. The loneliness and isolation was hard to endure, but the fear of the Indians was something more terrible. They would come to the house in such a quaint stealthy way and be peeping in at the window or around the door, gazing at me before I knew it, with their beady black eyes staring. Their half-naked bodies, often stained in crude colors, unnerved me so that I could hardly talk to them. Then to have some hideous old Indian say, 'Squaw 'fraid,' tended to arouse my courage and my temper, too. Finally I learned to stand in the door of my little house and keep them on the outside, if I saw them in time. They begged for flour, for clothes or for anything in sight that they could carry. An old buck reaching out a stealthy paw, touched the finger on which I wore my wedding ring, making signs that he wanted the ring. I drew back, feeling almost literally robbed of the ring. They were a sore trial to me.

"Macomb Smith, at whose place we had stayed on the Malheur, gave us a dog whose bark was so peculiar at an Indian that I could tell at once when an Indian was in sight. We prized him highly. At one time I was sick in bed and not able to sit up. Mr. Stroup had gone to the ferry, a mile and a half away, on an errand, leaving me entirely alone. The door was shut, and after awhile 'Hank,' the dog, gave that peculiar bark that told me instantly that Indians were near. Soon I could hear the murmur of voices and gradually they got Hank quieted, then stole up to the door quietly and rattled the knob of the door, but did not open it, as I expected every minute they would do. For over an hour I suffered a torture of fear and dread. When Mr. Stroup came he found the Indians still around the door, and I having a nervous chill, hardly able to talk. He worked with me until I began to recover, then said he would give the Indians something to eat and tell them to leave. He told them to leave and not come back for his squaw was sick. They left, but I was sick for over a week from the effects of their call.

"Many were the frights I got from Indians until I grew to hate the sight of them. At different times I was awakened by weird howling and screeching, mingled with the noise of horses' hoofs and rattling of trumpery made by bands of Indians going through the country with their squaws, papooses, wickiups and luggage in general flapping and rattling as they went. The first time I heard this noise I really thought our time had come, and when they passed and went on toward the ferry, Mr. Stroup was relieved also.

"Mosquitos at that time were a terrible pest. The valley was full of wild cattle that stamped and pawed of evenings, raising clouds of dust to rid themselves of mosquitos that literally covered their hides. I dared not venture out among the cattle, used only to seeing a man on horseback. I stayed close to my little house. In my lonesome hours I often longed to have something growing about the yard. I loved flowers, and for a change from the looks of the gray sagebrush around the place, I got the tops of willows that had been cut and brought up for wood, set it out in my door yard and used artificial flowers that I happened to save, to make blooms on the little tree. Never a stockman passing by but stopped to admire and comment on the pretty little flowering bush.

"Late that fall another family settled in the Washoe valley and I did not feel so entirely alone as before.

"Another incident of our experience in our first year in the west was going to a dance at Macomb Smith's on the Malheur on Christmas Eve, 1873. A dance in those days was attended by what few settlers there were anywhere within a radius of one hundred miles, who had anyway of getting there. There were always plenty of men, as bachelors were plentiful in that early day.

"There was a deep snow on the ground which had frozen a deep crust. Mr.

Stroup hitched up a pair of mules to a small sled that would only hold four or five persons, and we started for the dance, taking Mr. and Mrs. Levi Wamac and thirteen-year-old daughter, who by the way, was the only young lady at the dance, the others being married women. We stopped for Mr. and Mrs. Brinnon and two children, who lived on the Malheur. From Mr. Brinnon's place the men walked, and although the snow was deep, the men followed the cattle trails and could go faster than the team could travel in the crusted snow. Mr. Brinnon, Mr. Wamac and Mr. Shafer arrived first, and as we did not come they grew uneasy and started back to meet us.

"Meanwhile we were struggling along as best we could, one mule in the cattle trail when it wasn't too crooked, the other mule breaking the crust in the snow. No one thought of turning back. The thought of meeting our neighbors and fellow sufferers in a good cause was too alluring. Finally Mr. Stroup said the crust was cutting the mules legs so badly he didn't see how we could go on. Mrs. Brinnon, who had been in the west longer than any of us and was more resourceful, tore up a blanket and Mr. Stroup wrapped up the mules legs, and we pushed on, determined to reach the dance, and our destination. Just then the men came back to see what was the trouble. Mr. Stroup announced that he had more women than he would see again and was starting for Salt Lake. The men then went ahead of the team and broke the trail, and we soon reach our destination and were greeted with true western whole-hearted delight.

"The memory of that night will always remain with me; it was an introduction to western ways and western people. The old as well as the young danced, 'and all was merry as a marriage bell.' Among those present that night and whom some of you may remember, were: Mr. and Mrs. Stark, who lived on Snake river on what was later the Emison place; Mr. and Mrs. William Kennedy, who lived on the south side of the Malheur butte; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kennedy; Mr. Wilkins, a very tall man; Henry Gatch, who had some cattle on the Malheur; Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson and Mr. Adolph Jacobson, who now live in Payette; Mr. and Mrs. Will Emison and a number of bachelors. Among them were: Jim Henoty, Mr. Donahue, Charles Rice, Bill Cole and Tom Harris. Our orchestra consisted of a violin, mouth organ and an accordion. We had supper at midnight and breakfast at daylight.

"We, among others, stayed a couple of days, hoping the road would soften up a little. Some had come with ox teams, some with horses, a number had walked quite a distance. Many of them had worn their miner's clothing and heavy boots, while one or two of the women wore silk dresses, relics of former days. All met on equal footing and dress cut no figure. We were all truly glad to meet and break the monotony and loneliness of many months and weeks alone.

"I was eighteen years of age, and frontier style and manners were new to me, but I could not complain of being a wall flower, and the hearty good will and joyousness of that occasion made me forget old Missouri for one evening at least. While life lasts and the old Malheur butte stands a silent sentinel on the outposts of time it will ever be a reminder to me of that one evening in the long ago.

"The next spring (1874) the two men, Mr. Stroup and Mr. Shafer, cut willows and fenced the ranch on two sides, making two miles of woven willow fence, the Snake river forming the lines on the other two sides. Gradually, for the next two or three years settlers came into the valley.

"Our first school in Washoe was taught by J. I. Sturgill, from Grande Ronde valley, Oregon, and was kept in the house of George Goodman, a widower with four boys and one girl of school age. The school district was a very large one and there were fourteen pupils enrolled, two of them living so far away they could not attend school. Of the three directors, Mr. Stroup was the only one that could read and write. The teacher at that time received \$60 per month.

"Sometimes Mr. Stroup made a trip to Kelton, Utah, after a load of freight, and I would be left alone with my small children. No telephone, no automobile those days; no doctor closer than sixty miles. I have wondered what we would have done in case of an emergency, illness or accident. At nights the coyotes howled a lullaby to put me to sleep, and the stillness was often so oppressive that it made even this a welcome sound. Nearly a month went by before I could begin to look for the team and wagon to show up on the hill above the house, coming home. Long weary, lonesome days and nights, but all things pass in time.

"After we had begun raising crops, grasshoppers came in clouds one year and

ate up everything green, cutting off the heads of wheat, then in bloom. We had a patch of tobacco growing and they ate it to the ground. This was the only time in fifty-eight years that they had made their appearance in this locality. Another year flood waters in the Payette and Snake rivers ruined our crops.

"In the spring of 1877 came the Nez Perce Indian war. We were in the corral one evening milking cows, when Hank Cole, a neighbor bachelor, who lived on the banks of the Payette, came up to us and said:

"Have you heard the news?"

"Our reply was 'No.'

"'Injuns! Injuns on the war path! You want to brighten up your old gun.'

"He then told us that the Spoor family, from Indian valley up in the Weiser country, had come down to Mr. Thorp's place that evening on their way to Boise. They reported that the Indians were massacring settlers on White Bird, and that their next battle would be on the Weiser. Again I felt we were doomed, without hope. But the men assured me that we would get the news from the stage driver up from Baker, and that we could drive to Boise any night. (The Spoors were the parents of Mrs. Thorp.)

"We talked and talked. Mr. Cole went home, and night was upon us. I lay awake all night, never feeling the need of sleep. Every sound of the night meant Indians to me. Early the next morning we went to Thorp's to hear what Spoors knew and decide what we would do. Cole went across the river in a skiff and out to the stage station to get the news.

"The word was that the Indians were still in north Idaho, headed, it was thought, into Montana. We were still to watch for the stage and keep posted. Next day Mr. Stroup took me and our three children up to the McFarlan's store on the stage road, where we stopped with John Neil's family. Next day Mr. Stroup returned to the ranch, as the news was still favorable. Mr. and Mrs. Neil insisted that he leave us there a few days longer, until we were sure which way the Indians had gone.

"The Indians went into Montana, General Howard after them. We went home to spend an uneasy summer, and that fall, early in November, Mr. Stroup took us to Kelton with a team, and I, with the three children, Lonnie, Jessie and Frankie, the youngest just a year old, went to Alba, Missouri, where we remained about eighteen months.

"In 1878, came the Bannock Indian war. I being in Missouri, Mr. Stroup carried his needle gun with him, and when at home on the ranch often slept out in the willows. Some of the Indians went through our valley, the people taking their families to a kind of a fort on the Payette to stay, while the men went back and forth to the ranches to look after things. In the spring of 1879, I came back to Idaho again, and over the stage road, with team from Kelton. The Indians were put on reservations and we felt we could build us a home in peace.

"Mr. Stroup had paid out on his pre-emption claim and taken a homestead. He bought more land from the settlers and at one time owned about seven hundred acres in one body on Snake river. Much of the land was seeded to bluegrass, red top and timothy hay, and later on to alfalfa. We gave it the name of *Bluegrass Meadow Ranch*. Mr. Stroup was a farmer and stock raiser for many years. We built a two-story house of nine rooms, which the family called *Pioneer Lodge*, in honor of the 12x14 one-room house that was the first home in Washoe and our first home in the west.

"And now it is with some degree of pleasure, mingled with sadness, that I look back over these stirring scenes of pioneer days. Some of the scenes recall pleasant memories, while others I have related were not so pleasing, but of a very trying nature. But they materially aided in bringing out in those who lived through the exciting days, the best and strongest traits of character that stood for patience, endurance and accomplishment. Traits so essential in the developing and building up a new country."

The experience of Mrs. Mary N. Emison, following the settlement of the Emison family on the Malheur, was quite similar to that of Mrs. S. D. Stroup with Indians in Washoe. The following statement was given to me by Mrs. Ollie Emison Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Emison, at her home in Huntington Park, California:

"My nephew, Ralph Emison, who has been visiting with us here, spoke about climbing the Malheur butte with parties of young friends, and asked me if I had ever climbed the butte in my younger days. I told him no; that I always had a horror or dread of the butte. I never had a desire to climb it or be near it. I now believe this uneasiness was caused by the knowledge I had, when a little girl, that hostile Indians were sometimes hiding around the butte.

"There were also friendly Indians there and some of them thought a great deal of my father, who was good to them and often gave them work. But they were very annoying to my mother. They would sometimes come to the house, ask for something to eat, and then stand around and gaze at her through the window. As she was in poor health at the time such actions made her more nervous. One day when father was working some distance from the house this ordeal of Indians staring through the window at mother proved too much for her. She swooned and fell in a faint. This greatly alarmed the Indians, as they did not want to harm her; it was only curiosity as they had seen very few white women. They ran to where father was at work and urged him to hurry to the house, exclaiming, 'Billey, we've scared your squaw to death.' Father rushed to the house and soon revived mother.

Mrs. G. W. Brinnon was a close friend of my mother and often related to mother some of her pioneer experiences of Indian days. She said that during the Bannock war the family would often slip out of the house at nightfall, seeking safety from probable surprise Indian attacks under the dropping willows and behind the tall rye grass near the river bank. Some nights, as she kept vigil while the rest of the family slept, as she peered into the darkness she imagined she could see stealthy, crouching savages creeping through the grass, mistaking the spear-heads of tall bunches of swaying rye grass for the hideous head-dress of the savages. The anguish and mental torture this pioneer mother suffered in the still watch of a sleepless night was almost as horrifying as if she was in reality experiencing an Indian attack. Later the Brinnon family went to Emmetville and remained at the home of Mrs. Brinnon's father, Jonathan Smith, until the Indians were forced back to their reservations.

CHAPTER 12

THE BANNOCK-PIUTE INDIAN WAR OF 1878

*I heard, each Moon,
New tramlings of a dusty host
Poised night and noon
To sweep on toward a sunset coast.
—Edwin T. Reed.*

Along the headwaters of the Snake river, the Oregon Trail passed through the ancient hunting grounds of the Bannock tribe. For years the tribe lived in dread of the encroachment of the "pale face." Gradually this land was taken during the relentless waging of wars from 1860 to 1868. In the latter year, the Indians' greatest fear was realized when they were forced to go on the Fort Hall reservation, near Pocatello, Idaho. For ten

years more they remained at peace while food supplies became more scarce and they had to depend largely upon the government for sustenance as they became ever more closely confined on the reservation.

The year following the Nez Perce war of 1877 the Bannocks, under the leadership of Chief Buffalo Horn, left the reservation and went on the warpath. This outbreak has been attributed to various causes. One of which was that the Indians had become dissatisfied with their treatment as wards of government. The war has also been attributed to the ambitions of Buffalo Horn, who was said to have become envious of the reputation Chief Joseph had attained as a warrior and wanted to demonstrate his superiority over the great Nez Perce chief.

After the defeat of the Piutes and the Bannock branch of the Shoshoe tribe by General Crook and General O'Connor in 1868, the Bannocks agreed to go onto the Fort Hall reservation which had been assigned to them. In 1867, while the war was still in progress, Governor Ballard of Idaho, acting in the capacity of ex-officio superintendent of Indian affairs, entered into a formal treaty with the Bannocks in which they agreed to go on the Fort Hall reservation before June 1, 1868, on condition they should be taught agriculture and mechanics and that schools would be established for their children. In 1868, a formal treaty was made whereby 1,568,000 acres of land was set aside for the use of Bannock and kindred tribes. By the terms of the treaty the Indians were permitted to go to the buffalo grounds and to dig camas on Big Camas Prairie. The first year the Indians started farming they were greatly discouraged by hordes of grasshoppers that destroyed their crops.

The error of a government clerk in the Interior Department in Washington, D. C., has also been charged as a cause of the war. This clerk had heard of the state of Kansas, but was unfamiliar with the word "camas," and the value the Indians placed on the camas root for food. In transcribing the treaty, which had been written and ratified by the U. S. Senate, February 16, 1869, the clerk inserted the words, Kansas Prairie, instead of Camas Prairie, thus depriving the Bannocks of their Camas grounds. Later the government in violation of the treaty, opened Camas Prairie to settlement. This was one of the contributing causes of the war. The Bannocks became more restless after the death of their leading chief, Tygee, in 1871. Scarcity of supplies at the agency also contributed to the unrest. A few murders of white men occurred in 1872.

In 1873, the Indian commissioners made a modification of the treaty by which the Bannocks were not permitted to hunt outside the reservation without a written permit from the agent. This further curtailed them in obtaining game and other food. Some of the Bannocks, including Buffalo Horn, aided the government troops in the Nez Perce war of 1877. But the

chief became dissatisfied when General Howard refused to accept his advice in the conduct of certain phases of the war and withdrew.

In the autumn of 1877, the Bannocks became more troublesome and the military force at the agency was increased. The Bannock war started in May, 1878, when Indians killed a settler on Big Camas Prairie, after which Buffalo Horn with about two hundred warriors, accompanied by their families, started west along the Snake river, where they shot and severely wounded two sheep herders. The Indians were well supplied with arms. Through a profession of friendship, Buffalo Horn had secured arms from the governor of Idaho, although the government had previously forbidden the sale or gift of arms to Indians. Buffalo Horn planned to form an alliance with the Piutes and most of the larger tribes of the northwest, including the Umatillas and other Columbia river Indians. Buffalo Horn was acknowledged to be a shrewd Indian statesman, but not a successful war chief. As it was, his plans failed and Buffalo Horn met death early in the conflict.

After passing through Camas Prairie the Bannock's next depredation was to capture the stage station at King Hill where they destroyed all the property and drove off the horses. The men in charge of the station narrowly escaped with their lives. Near Glenn's ferry they captured and burned two freight wagons. They found some liquor in the wagons which they consumed. Such contents of the wagons that they did not burn or carry off was scattered around. The freighters, upon seeing the approaching Indians, cut their horses loose from the wagons, mounted some of them and made their escape. The Indians cut the ferry-boat loose at Glenn's ferry, destroyed several farm houses in that vicinity, from which the families had fled, and drove off about two hundred head of horses. At the "Three Islands Ford," two miles below Glenn's ferry, they killed three miners who were working there. The settlers in the vicinity of Payne's ferry organized and fortified themselves, but their fortification was not attacked. About fifty of the settlers, mostly women and children accompanied by armed men on horseback were taken to Kelton for safety.

From Payne's ferry the Indians went toward Boise; then turned west, crossing the Snake river at Henderson's ferry and came into Malheur county, crossing the Oregon-Idaho state line near Jordan valley. At that time Malheur was a part of Baker county. The first real encounter between the Indians and settlers took place seven miles east of South mountain, in Idaho, near the Oregon state line. This encounter took place on June 18, 1878, and is known as the battle of South mountain. It was believed the Indians intended to attack Jordan valley and volunteers were organized at Jordan valley and Silver City to intercept them before they could attack.

Thirty-five volunteers from Silver City headed by J. B. Harper, attacked the Indians before the arrival of the Jordan valley volunteers, who were

to meet them near that point. Being greatly outnumbered the volunteers were repulsed after four white men and two of the Indian scouts were killed and another white man wounded. After their repulse the Silver City men retreated toward Jordan valley and were met by the volunteers from the latter place on the way to join them. All returned to Jordan valley to prepare for the defense of the place. The Indians did not attack but turned toward the "Hole in the Ground" on the Owyhee, which now forms the Owyhee government project reservoir. The battle of South mountain is believed to have caused the Indians to abandon an attack on Jordan valley, as they realized the settlers had been warned and were preparing for the defense of the place. The Bannocks headed for the Piute reservation. Their course led through an uninhabited portion of Malheur county. They committed their first atrocity in Oregon at the edge of the Malheur-Harney county line.

As soon as it became known the Bannocks had left the Fort Hall reservation orders were sent out for government troops to hurry to the scene of action from Boise, Camp Harney, Salt Lake, Carson City, and posts on the Columbia and from California. Colonel Grover's command of several companies under Captains Sumner, Bendier, Sanford and Carr, were ordered to congregate at Riverside ferry, former site of old Fort Boise on the Snake river. Colonel Bernard and Captain Whipple were ordered from the Bruneau river to go in pursuit of the Bannocks. Captain McGregor and Lieutenant Bomus were ordered to join Colonel Bernard. Colonel Stewart, in command of two companies of artillery and five companies of infantry assembled at the Rinehart stone house, near the hot springs close to the Malheur river ford. When it was determined the course the hostiles were taking, the troops started in pursuit.

Chief E'Gantz and Otis, with their Piutes, left the Malheur reservation in Agency valley after destroying some of the agency property and joined forces with the Bannocks. Soon after, Chief Winnemucca, with his band of Piutes, left for Nevada, refusing to take part in the war. After his surrender to General Crook in 1868, Winnemucca was taken to Washington and other large eastern cities, by government agents to impress him with the futility of continuing hostilities. This appears to have had the desired effect as he never afterwards engaged in hostilities against the settlers.

G. W. Brinnon, the well-known Malheur county pioneer, who was here during all of the Indian troubles from 1863 to 1878, told me of an incident concerning Winnemucca after his return from the eastern trip. Mr. Brinnon said that following his returned the Piute chief called a council of his head men. When they were assembled the noted chief addressed them, urging that the tribe thereafter remain at peace with the settlers. Using as an illustration to drive home the point he wished to impress, Winnemucca heaped up a large pile of sand and nearby a very small pile. Pointing to the big

pile, he said, "This white man." Then pointing to the tiny pile of sand he said, "This Indian; no use to fight."

It appears that Winnemucca was not the original name of this distinguished Piute chief, for which the town of Winnemucca, Nevada, is named. The following paragraph is taken from the Boise *Idaho Statesman* of September 4, 1887, and republished in a subsequent issue of the pioneer section of the *Statesman*, September 4, 1927:

"Lee, the stalwart son of old Winnemucca, chief of the Piutes, says the name Winnemucca was given his father by two white trappers who came to Humboldt from the Boise river before the discovery of gold in California. In the Piute dialect, 'mucca' means moccasin, and the trappers noticing that the chief had but one moccasin referred to him as 'Wanne-muc-cha.' The name, a jargon of English and Piute, found favor with the chief and he adopted it and was thereafter called 'Wan-nu-muc-cha' by the tribe. When the mines were discovered in the Winnemucca mountains, one of the prospectors, O. B. O'Brannon, who, by the way was a college graduate, and a nephew of Secretary Browning, a member of Lincoln's cabinet, named the district Winne-mucca, and from that the town derived its name."

The Bannocks under Buffalo Horn and the Piutes headed by E'Gantz united in Warm Springs valley. Their first act of hostility in Oregon was committed in Barren valley when they attacked the Crowley ranch. After the hostilities withdrew, two friendly Indians, Chief Winnemucca and his nephew, Nachez, who had interceded in their behalf, returned to the ranch and advised Green Crowley and his son, James, to leave at once. It was well that the two white men followed this advice. The two Crowleys, mounted on fleet horses started for the Alvord ranch and from there went on to the White Horse ranch. A small band of Indians pursued them, but were unable to overtake them. The Indians returned to the Crowley ranch and burned the house, leaving only the bare stone walls standing. At the White Horse ranch the settlers had constructed a small fort of juniper posts but the savages did not molest them.

From Barren valley the Indians went in a northwesterly direction up Indian creek, through Anderson valley—which lies along the northern slope of Steen mountain—and burned the home of G. W. Anderson. About the middle of June they passed through Happy valley, where they killed George C. Smith and his son, John. The Smiths had barricaded themselves in the home. Smith and his son held the Indians at bay for a day and a half until they were overpowered and killed after which the savages set fire to the house and burned the bodies. These were the first murders by the Indians in Oregon of which there is a record. They burned the house of the son, John Smith, about a mile and a half from his father's home.

Near the Diamond ranch the savages attacked two prominent pioneer stockmen, Peter French and A. H. Robie, who, with sixteen of their men, were rounding up horses. A. H. Robie, whose home was in Boise, had recently sold his stock to the French-Glenn cattle company and they were gathering up some of the stock to make the transfer. As the Indians ap-

proached, French with only one rifle and sixteen rounds of ammunition, charged the savages. Being greatly outnumbered, French ordered his men to retreat to the "P" ranch, one of the company's holdings. The Chinese cook, riding bareback, fell behind and was killed. One of the cow hands, a Rogue river Indian, was wounded in the hand. French saved the life of another of his men by killing an Indian who had his gun leveled on the man ready to fire. The stockmen fled to Camp Harney without further casualties. French and Robie joined forces with troops stationed at the camp. Two freighters, who had accompanied French and his party from Krumbo to Camp Harney, later returned to Krumbo for their wagons and were killed by Indians.

After escaping from the Indians near Happy valley, French and Robie, with their men, went to the front with Colonel Bernard's command and participated in the first battle of the war between troops and Indians which took place on Silver creek. Mr. Robie took dispatches from the battleground back to Fort Harney and from there volunteered to carry dispatches on to Fort Boise. This gallant old pioneer, well along in years, never recovered from his long and arduous trip on horseback with the dispatches to Fort Boise and died shortly after his return to his home in that city.

The Indians were known to be assembled somewhere in the valley between Cedar and Steen mountains. Before General Howard's arrival at Camp Harney, on June 25, the savages disappeared and their whereabouts for a time were unknown. They had gone up Silver creek and were on their way north to form a junction with the Umatilla, Cayuse, Walla Walla and other Columbia river tribes. It was Buffalo Horn's intention to devastate the country along the way to the Columbia river. After uniting with the Umatillas and the other tribes at the Umatilla reservation, near Pendleton, he planned to cross the Columbia river and unite with the Spokanes and other tribes in Washington. Should they become too hard pressed they would retreat across the international line into British Columbia.

On June 21, four days before General Howard arrived at Camp Harney, the command of Colonel Bernard, consisting of four companies of the 1st Cavalry and 168 scouts under Colonel Rube Robbins, left to go in pursuit of the Indians. The following night they camped at Burnt ranch. Their first encounter with the Indians took place Sunday morning, June 23, on Silver creek. The troops surprised themselves as well as the Indians, when suddenly and unexpectedly they came upon a large band of hostiles. The advance scouts, under Colonel Robbins, sighted the savages near Camp Curry, an abandoned post about sixty miles south of Camp Harney, around nine o'clock in the morning. The Indians evidently were completely taken by surprise as their stock was unguarded. They did not understand the telegraph system installed by the government so did not realize troops could be so quickly assembled.

Colonel Bernard formed his command in the following order: Company F, in advance, under Lieutenant Bomus; Company G was next under Lieutenant Ward; Company A was in the rear under Captain McGregor, and Company L, under Captain Whipple, was left to guard the supplies. With a yell the scouts and soldiers charged. The Indians retreated from the valley to take shelter behind nearby rimrocks on hillsides. A second charge was made, but the Indians outnumbered the troops six to one, and the soldiers retired to await reinforcements. Reinforced by Companies A and G, the soldiers renewed the attack with great vigor. During one of the charges Buffalo Horn was killed. A personal duel took place between Colonel Rube Robbins and Chief E'Gantz, in which E'Gantz was twice wounded and his famous buckskin war horse was captured. E'Gantz was rescued by some of his young braves who dragged him off the field. Colonel Robbins had his horse shot from under him, but was rescued by Peter French, who dashed in and took Robbins on his horse behind him and rode back to the troops.

A personal encounter also took place between Sergeant George H. Richards of Captain McGregor's command, and Bear Skin, a noted Bannock chief, in which the redskin was killed. Considerable property in the Indian camp was destroyed by the soldiers and quite a bit of money and ammunition was captured. The battle waxed quite furious at times and lasted far into the night. Between midnight and 2 a.m., the Indians retreated, closely pursued for a distance of ten miles, when the Indians made another stand. Colonel Bernard awaited the arrival of General Howard before renewing the attack. In this fight two soldiers and a scout named Myers were killed and another trooper was mortally wounded. The Indian loss was much greater.

After the battles on Silver creek the Indians followed up that stream and crossed over Strawberry mountain then down Murder's creek ¹ to the South Fork of the John Day river, pillaging ranches along the way and killing some herders and ranchmen. They were met by a small party of seven men from Canyon City, led by James N. Clark, a noted freighter. In a hot fight a young man named Aldredge was killed and Clark's horse was shot from under him. The animal fell on Clark's leg pinning him to the ground. A member of the party named Bernham released Clark and he escaped to nearby willows that fringed the river.

When the Indians were within about twenty miles of Canyon City preparations were made for the defense of the town. Many settlers hurried to the place for protection. Some of the citizens took refuge in mining tunnels

1. Murder's creek, a small tributary of the south fork of the John Day river, attained its name after five prospectors were attacked on its banks by Indians in the fall of 1862. The miners had made camp under a projecting cliff. They were attacked after they had gone to bed. One of them was killed instantly and all the others were wounded. Two of the wounded men struggled down the creek for half-a-mile where one of them died. The other made his way to a ranch where he died the next day. The remaining two escaped into the nearby willows along the creek and made their way back to Canyon City. One of them died of his wounds. The fifth man lived a number of years but never fully recovered. All had been shot by poisoned arrows.

west of town, taking with them supplies and household goods in preparation for a long siege. But the Indians went west of the city, crossing the valley where it was sparsely settled, continuing their orgy of destruction. Many valuable horses were maimed or killed; large numbers of cattle were slaughtered and whole bands of sheep were destroyed.

At the beginning of hostilities when General Howard's troops passed through Jordan valley in pursuit of the Bannocks a number of local men, including R. A. Hart, John Connor and George Vanderhoof enlisted as scouts. When a detachment of about two hundred infantrymen went up Willow creek to intercept the Indians on the John Day river, J. A. Morton joined them as a scout. When they passed through Malheur City, William Morfitt and other local men enlisted as scouts. When Colonel Green and his troops were camped at the J. L. Cole place on the return trip down Willow creek, Leonard Cole, Levi Westfall, Cass Wisdom, Bob Worsham, William Shreves and W. G. Thomson enlisted as scouts.

After the battle of Silver creek, with Colonel Bernard's troopers in pursuit, the Indians took a northwesterly course going through Fox valley and across Long creek to the middle fork of the John Day river. At the town of Long Creek a small fort was built in which some of the settlers took refuge. Upon approaching this fort the Indians sent a small party with a flag of truce under a pretense of friendship. The savages tried to induce the settlers to come outside but they were not that easily deceived and remained within the enclosure. The full force of Indians passed within six hundred yards of the fort without attempting to attack. In this locality the hostiles were joined by Columbia non-reservation Indians, some of whom had come from as far away as Priest Rapids on the Columbia river. Some Umatillas also joined the war party. The hostiles now numbered about one thousand warriors.

On June 29, Indians encircled a party of fifteen home guards on the south fork of the John Day, killed one man and wounded others. Another small scouting party encountered the savages about twenty miles west of Canyon City. A man named Shultz was wounded after which the party retreated back to the settlement. The Indians by-passed the town of John Day but considerable property was destroyed in the John Day valley and two sheep herders were killed. The Indians murdered three families in Fox valley.

Crossing the middle fork of the John Day, the hostiles went down Birch creek toward the Umatilla Indian reservation. None of the towns in the path of the marauders were in a position to defend themselves. There was great consternation in Pendleton, Walla Walla, Wallulu, Weston, Milton, and Umatilla Landing as scattered settlers rushed into the towns for safety. Calls for help from all parts of the invaded country, extended from the John

Day to the Deschutes river. Many settlers were sent down the Columbia by steamboats to The Dalles.

Major H. A. Connoyer, Indian agent at the Umatilla reservation, gathered all the Umatillas possible, and also some Warm Springs and Columbia river Indians, totaling about 2,000, the loyalty of some of whom were questioned. On July 2, loyal Umatillas under Agent Connoyer encountered about four hundred hostiles in an all-day battle, killing thirty of them with the loss of only two of their own number. This attack by the Umatillas under the Indian agent prevented an attack by the Bannocks and Piutes on Pendleton, where many white women and children were gathered. At that time the population of Pendleton was about 150 persons and the town consisted of about forty houses. About the same number of refugees had come in from the country.

The Portland militia tendered arms and offered their services. Governor Ferry, of Washington, also lent guns belonging to the state, for use of Oregon settlers. A consignment of guns intended for Governor Brayman, of Idaho, was stopped by permission at Umatilla Landing to be used by settlers. General Wheaton's command was assigned to guard the Columbia river to prevent the warring Indians from crossing over. At Bake Oven, fifty miles above The Dalles, on July 2, the hostiles captured a wagon loaded with guns intended for the state militia. They killed one man, wounded two others and burned a house.

Four teamsters, J. P. McCoy, Charles McLoughling, Thomas Smith and Frank Myers were killed near Cayuse Station. Three other men, George Coggin, Fred Foster and Al Bunker were attacked near there. Coggin was killed and Bunker severely wounded. Foster attempted to carry his wounded companion on a horse to Pendleton but was unable to travel with him for more than two miles. Leaving the wounded man he hurried to town for help. The Indians burned Cayuse Station. Foster's arrival in Pendleton with the news of the murders and burning of the station created great excitement.

July 5, General Wheaton obtained the steamboat Spokane and armed it with a Howitzer and Gatling gun to patrol the Columbia, manned by Captain Kress with ten soldiers and ten civilians. They intercepted Indians attempting to cross the river below Umatilla landing. Captain Wilkinson with another steamboat, the Northwest, manned by twelve soldiers and twenty volunteers prevented another band of hostiles from crossing above Umatilla; two warriors and a squaw were killed. Captain Worth was engaged in seizing small boats along the river to prevent Indians from crossing, but some of them managed to cross.

On July 4, the Bannocks and Piutes camped on Camas Prairie, a short distance from Pendleton and preparation was made for defense of the town. The warriors greatly outnumbered the 75 white men able to bear arms, and

if they had attacked at that time they could have taken Pendleton easily. But E'Gantz delayed action and Pendleton was saved.

General Wheaton had a small force of 54 men assembled at Wallulu. Colonel Grover had been ordered to join General Wheaton, but before his arrival, Wheaton received a call for help from Pendleton and ordered his men to go to Pendleton at once. E'Gantz defeated a company of volunteers coming from Umatilla to Pendleton, and could have followed them into town, but hesitated, and General Howard with the regulars arrived shortly thereafter and Pendleton was again saved from attack.

The day Captain Miles engaged the Indians in battle at the edge of the Blue mountains, General Wheaton, upon being informed that Indians were approaching Wallulu, sent orders to Colonel Forsythe to turn back from Lewiston and intercept them. Upon learning the hostiles were invading the Umatilla reservation, General Wheaton ordered Colonel Forsythe to go to the aid of Captain Miles. General Wheaton joined the command at the reservation July 15. Colonel Sanford, who had reached La Grande, was ordered to return and join forces with Miles and Forsythe. While returning Sanford encountered some of the Indians near the head of McKay's creek, not far from Meacham Station. The Indians gathered in strong force near the summit and Sanford's forces retreated back to La Grande. Reinforced by volunteers, Sanford's troops guarded the passes into Grand Ronde valley.

Captain Miles, being informed by Indian Agent Connoyer of the movements of E'Gantz, determined to take independent action and marched back to Umatilla Agency, as Pendleton was again threatened. A large number of Cayuse Indians, led by Chief Whirlwind, asked and were given permission by Captain Miles to join with his troops. One morning as the soldiers were eating breakfast E'Gantz warriors, four hundred strong, were discovered approaching the camp. The troops hurriedly lined up for action, but before their line was completed the Indians opened fire. The soldiers dug small pits in which to entrench. The battle lasted all day. Late in the day Miles gave orders to charge. The hostiles fled in confusion and were driven eighteen miles into the mountains. This was their last threat on Pendleton. The prompt independent action by Captain Miles saved the town. The soldiers and their Cayuse allies suffered no losses. The loss by the hostile Indians is unknown.

Before the final battle near Pendleton, Umapine, a Umatilla chief, whose father had been killed years before by E'Gantz, was plotting revenge. Chief E'Gantz was a half-breed Umatilla. After killing Umapine's father, he fled across the Blue mountains and joined the Piute tribe for protection and the Piutes made him a chief.

After the retreat of the Bannocks and Piutes into the mountains, following their defeat by Captain Miles, Umapine under pretense of friendship, contacted E'Gantz and told him some of the Umatilla and Cayuses

desired to join forces with him. The second night following the battle Umapine induced E'Gantz to accompany him to within twelve miles of the Umatilla Agency to meet some Cayuse chiefs to arrange completion of the alliance. Umapine then sent word to Major Connoyer to have forty soldiers stationed at a convenient place to intercept E'Gantz.

The army officers desired to capture the Piute chief but did not want to kill him. Captain Miles and Major Connoyer doubted the sincerity of Umapine so refused to take chances of sending troops to the rendezvous for fear of an ambush. The Cayuses and Umatillas were very much disappointed and complained to the Indian Agent because he suspicioned them. Following this failure, Chief Whirlwind, acting on the suggestion of army officers, took forty of his Cayuse braves and went to the rendezvous, which was between Meacham and Cayuse stations. Chief Umapine and Chief Five Crows, the latter a descendant of the famous Cayuse war chief of the same name, went to E'Gantz's camps and induced him to accompany them to the pretended conference. E'Gantz fell into the trap and started out with the two chiefs on horseback. Upon nearing the appointed place Five Crows dismounted and led his horse. E'Gantz growing suspicious, sprang from his horse and grappled with Five Crows. One of E'Gantz's arms had been badly crippled in his duel with Colonel Rube Robbins in the battle of Silver creek and the Cayuse chief soon overpowered him. Five Crows shot E'Gantz in the head, killing him, and then scalped him.

The discharge of guns attracted a number of Piute warriors and women to the scene and a lively skirmish followed. Following the battle the Cayuses and Umatillas returned in triumph to the Agency with nine scalps and eighteen Piute women and children captives. Dangling their war trophies, they proudly paraded before the troops who had lined up to welcome their return. General Wheaton had recently arrived from Walla Walla and had taken over the command. Yatinouits, a Cayuse sub-chief, proudly bore the head of E'Gantz on a pole which he presented to General Wheaton, saying:

"E'Gantz! E'Gantz! We give him to you, General Wheaton."

The general replied: "No, no. Keep it my brave man."

The Piute chief was decapitated, but there are two versions of the ghastly incident, which differ. One is that the Indians that killed the chief beheaded him and presented the trophy to General Wheaton as related above. It has also been said that an army surgeon decapitated E'Gantz and cut off part of his wounded arm and preserved them in alcohol. The ghastly relics were said to have been taken to California and placed in a museum at San Francisco. Chief Whirlwind, who led the Indians that killed E'Gantz, is said to have denied they cut off his head, claiming it was done by an army surgeon.

I called on the noted scout, J. W. Reddington, at the National Soldier's

Home in Sawtelle, California, about two years before his death there. "Colonel" Reddington was one of General Howard's scouts in the Bannock-Piute war, also in the Nez Perce and Sheep Eaters Indian wars. He died at Sawtelle, March 23, 1935. Mr. Reddington intimated to me that the statement that an army surgeon decapitated E'Gantz after the body had been brought in by Indians was correct. Reddington knew E'Gantz personally. He said the Piute chief was not as brutal as he has been pictured. He stated E'Gantz had sold his famous buckskin war horse to a white man a short time before Indian hostilities started in the spring of 1878 and there was no evidence that he was making preparations for war. Reddington said he was convinced E'Gantz would not have led the Piutes into the war if he had not been compelled to do so by Buffalo Horn and his Bannocks. After the Bannocks came into Oregon on the warpath he said E'Gantz went to the white man's cabin and bought back his war horse for thirty dollars, placing thirty silver dollars along a crack on the cabin floor.

The defeat of the Bannocks and Piutes by Captain Miles on the Umatilla reservation, followed by the death of their leader, practically put an end to the war. Blocked from crossing the Columbia river they broke up into small bands, retreating in all directions except north. Chief Homeli, with eighty Umatillas, Cayuse and Walla Walla, joined the troops in harrassing Bannocks and Piutes. Homeli and his warriors attacked the retreating hostiles on Camas creek and killed thirty of them without the loss of a man. They captured twenty-seven women and children and a number of horses.

With the Umatillas, Cayuses and Walla Walla, whom they had expected to become their allies fighting against them, the Bannocks and Piutes started back to their own reservations. The bodies of seven teamsters were found on Meacham creek where they had been murdered by the retreating hostiles. On July 17, Umatilla Indians, led by three white scouts, found the trail of a band of hostiles on a branch of Birch creek on the road leading to Baker City. Attacking the savages they killed seventeen warriors, captured twenty-seven braves, women and children. A company of troops under Lieutenant Edgbert, captured about the same number on the Snake river.

General Howard's advance cavalry under Colonel Barnard and Colonel Forsythe encountered a large force of the redskins July 15 and 16. One trooper, George Smith, was killed and a number of others wounded. Following the battle a number of horses were found on the battle-ground. Judging from this it is believed the Indians suffered heavy losses, but the number was never determined, for as usual they carried off their dead and wounded.

The next battle took place on Elk creek, in Grant county, July 25. The Indians had chosen the battle-ground to combat the approaching troops on high tableland. The savages were well secreted and the soldiers would

have been surprised and undoubtedly suffered severe losses had not Colonel Rube Robbins, with a small detachment of fourteen of his scouts well in advance of the cavalry, discovered the hiding place. The scouts were ambushed as they were ascending to the plateau through a gap. Scout Horton Froman was killed and two other scouts wounded. Horton Froman was the eldest son of Dr. F. K. Froman. With two younger brothers, George and Ben, he served as scout under Robbins in the Nez Perce and Bannock-Piute wars.

A later engagement took place between the scouts and Indians in which a scout named Kennedy was killed and some other scouts, including Rube Robbins, were wounded. Colonel Bernard with his troops joined this battle and the Indians were forced to retreat.

When word reached Malheur county that the Indians were returning to their reservations, settlers in the Snake and Malheur river valleys and on Willow creek again sought safety. The war was practically at an end and the red-skins in small bands were retreating southward to their reservations. One band retreated south by way of Greenhorn mountain and another through Dixie range. The band going by way of Dixie range killed a Frenchman near Robinsonville and a rancher, James Verderman, on Elk creek. Another man was killed near Westfall.

A band of Bannocks, returning to their Fort Hall reservation in Idaho, crossed the Snake river below the mouth of the Payette, tore down the house of James Applegate on the west side of the Snake and made rafts of the roof and other parts of the building to cross the river. James Applegate was the brother of Rev. Samuel Applegate, the pioneer Baptist minister. All settlers had fled from that locality.

In Oregon small bands of Piutes were gradually rounded up and by August 10 six hundred had surrendered and returned to the Agency valley reservation. Later they were sent to the Yakima reservation in the State of Washington and the last Indian war in Oregon was at an end. The Piute reservation in Agency valley was closed and the government buildings and some of the reservation land was sold to the Pacific Live Stock Co. The rest of the land was sold to settlers. Some years later the Piutes were permitted to leave the Yakima reservation and go to Nevada.

Honorable W. G. Thomson, first school superintendent of Malheur county, and who later served two terms as county clerk, was the last of the local scouts of the Bannock-Piute war. At my request, on June 27, 1933, "Uncle Billy," at that time eighty-four years of age, wrote me some of his reminiscences while serving as scout, which are here given:

"Jake, I am now eighty-four years old and the sole survivor of that bunch of scouts with whom I served in the Bannock war. I believe that I am the oldest pioneer in Malheur county.

"July 27, 1878, Colonel Green, with a hundred mounted troops, was camped at Cole's ranch on Willow creek. When I rode into his camp he had just em-

ployed five men—Billy Shrides, Leonard Cole, Bob Worsham, Cass Wisdom and Levi Westfall—to scout for his command. The scouts already employed importuned the Colonel to include me in their number. As I remember it, the Colonel said he had all the scouts the War Department allowed him, but that he could and would employ me in the Quartermaster Department providing I would agree to do scout duty, which, of course, I agreed to do. The scouts set out at once hunting Indians. We struck their trail on the head of Red's creek, followed it several miles and saw the Indians disappearing toward the south.

"We got back to camp about eleven o'clock that night and made our report. Green had moved down to the Norwood place.

"Johnny Edwards was having a hundred head of horses herded in that vicinity in the daytime and corralled at night at the Turner place about a half mile from Green's camp. Evidently the Indians thought these horses were gentle and they were very much in need of more horses to ride. Two or three times during the night they let the corral bars fall. Men sleeping near the corral heard them fall and replaced them. Finally the Indians set fire to a hay yard adjoining the corral. The wind was blowing just right to sweep flames over the horses and they had to be turned out. The Indians took about sixty to a circular rimrock, forming a natural corral, where eight of them were found dead, each horse having rope marks. Evidently they had been killed to get the ropes off.

"The next day we moved down to the present town of Vale. From there I was sent with dispatches to General Howard who was in pursuit of the Indians about sixty miles west. The territory I passed through was alive with hostiles and twice I had to run for my life. I had to lie out one night with nothing to eat and only my saddle blanket for a bed. When I got up in the morning I found my bed was being shared by a big rattle snake.

"I overtook Howard at Jordan valley and remained with his command until it crossed the Snake river. From there I was again sent alone with dispatches for Green. He was camped forty miles away and expected to march forty miles that day, so that I had a prospect of an eighty mile ride to overtake him. After I had ridden what I judged to be about thirty-five miles, I saw a dust cloud off to the north and traveling in my direction, evidently being raised by traveling animals. It might be range stock going to water, or it might be a prowling band of Indians. And it was, about forty of 'em. The situation was distinctly unpleasant. I couldn't go back to Howard's command, and Green's command was supposed to be twenty-five or thirty miles away. The prospects of being chased for that distance by a band of murderous Indians presented no attractive features. My horse was probably fast enough to out-run any of the Indian ponies, but if he become disabled—well, the Indians took no prisoners. There was no cover at hand, but about a mile south there was a little rocky butte. I made a run for this butte, raced around it, tied my horse to a bush in a ravine running down the south side, hastily climbed to the summit and hid myself in the rocks. My father and uncle had been Indian fighters and from them I had learned something about Indian warfare, and I knew that that bunch of Indians would never take me out of that pile of rocks. About a hundred yards north of the butte was a deep gully running east and west. I waited until the Indians crossed the gully before beginning to shoot. At the first shot the Indians began to fall back into the gully; but I got in seven or eight shots before they all disappeared. They never fired a shot. From the dust they kicked up, I could tell they were leaving, traveling down the gully and keeping out of sight. I did not expect any further trouble from that bunch, for an Indian religiously avoids the place where, and the person from whom, he suffers a distinct defeat.

"When the dust indicated the Indians were at a safe distance I got my horse and went on my way. Soon after, I found a saddle horse trailing a long rope with a picket at the end. I caught him, put my saddle on him and thereafter rode much faster. Fortunately Green had marched only twenty miles that day, so that my ride was shortened from eighty to sixty miles and I got to his camp soon after dark.

"A few days later the Oregon boys were discharged and rode home. I am the only survivor of that bunch of scouts. Leonard Cole, the last one to go, was killed in an auto accident near Long Beach, California. Colonel C. E. S. Wood, father of our Congresswoman, Nan Wood Honeyman, was Lieutenant Wood, at that time, serving under Colonel Green."

Judge Will R. King was thirteen years old at the time the Bannocks went on the warpath and was living with his parents in Jordan valley. The first battle between the Bannocks and volunteers was fought near South mountain, within a few miles of where young King was working in a dairy. In 1932, Judge King then residing in California, wrote me from Los Angeles, where he was practicing law, in which he said:

"I read with much interest your story in the *Argus* and congratulate you on your accuracy of 'ancient times' in Malheur county. I have thought of writing up the history of Jordan valley, but it seems I cannot get the time and mood together to do so.

"I well remember the Nez Perce war of 1877 and the Bannock war of 1878. I was living near Weston during the Nez Perce war and came to Jordan valley in the spring of 1878, a month or two before the Bannock war started.

"You mention Colonel Wood in connection with the war of '78. I remember the incident and saw the company of soldiers as they marched through the 'Valley of the Jordan' in the direction of the supposed Indian headquarters. But they did not, as in ancient Jordan days, follow the footsteps of Joshua and cross the river 'dry shod;' but stopped near the banks and rested over Sunday, and under direction of General Howard held prayer meeting. My father and I drove down to their camp and sold them a load of grain for their horses.

"There was another incident at the beginning of the war, when the day before the battle, I accidentally ran into three armed Indians, which made me realize how badly a boy could be frightened without either running or hollering. I was unarmed at the time. The three, in full paint and with guns in front of them across their saddles, watched me in silence for a few moments, then asked:

"'Where's the man?'"

"I answered, 'Down at the barn,' pointing, (he being six miles away, however.)

"They grunted a laugh as they saw my paleness, and moved on, much to my relief. It was sometime before my face resumed its usual healthy complexion.

"The same afternoon I saw a long line of Indians on their ponies crossing the foothills about one-half mile south of where now stands the town of Jordan Valley. We afterward learned that these were the Indian families going to the Owyhee 'hole-in-the-ground' for safety, preparatory to the intended raid on the valley, which was intercepted by the battle mentioned."

Young King was working at the dairy at the time the Jordan valley volunteers passed there on their way to meet the Indians. After seeing them pass he got nervous and concluded that when he carried skimmed milk to the hogs it was advisable for him to carry his shotgun, loaded with buck-shot. Hence, the thirteen-year-old "Billy" King carried the milk pail in one hand and the shotgun in the other on his numerous trips between the cellar and the hog pen. Every night he would leave for the stone house, a building astride the Oregon-Idaho line, used as a fort. One evening as he was hurrying to the fort he met the volunteers returning from the first battle in which they had been defeated.

J. A. Draper was working as a "bull-whacker" for Neil Bros., hauling freight from Kelton, Utah, to Boise, Idaho, at the time the Bannocks left the Fort Hall reservation. The Neil wagon train, loaded with freight, arrived at Glenn's ferry from Kelton about two days after the Bannocks had pillaged and burned two wagons loaded with freight near the ferry. The freighters, upon seeing the Indians approaching, cut the horses loose from the wagons,

mounted some of them and made their escape. The burned wagons were still smouldering when the Neil wagon train reached the ferry and they had to move some of the rubbish from the road to get by. The Neil teamsters were driving oxen and if they had arrived at the ferry two days earlier they would have had to defend themselves against a superior force, as they had no way to escape. The government had supplied the teamsters with needle guns. John Neil, one of the brothers, was an early pioneer of the Payette valley. One of his daughters, Hattie Neil, married Ross W. Clement, eldest son of Judge J. T. Clement.

William Hemmingway, a well-known stage driver, was ambushed and killed by the savages near the Owyhee river ferry, while enroute, without passengers, between Silver City and Sheep ranch. In June, 1878, another stage driver, George McCutcheon, was killed near the Duncan ferry on the Boise, Silver City and Winnemucca route.

O. P. Cressap, an early resident of Canyon City, who served as scout and guide for General Howard's army through Grant and Umatilla counties, in a published statement, defended Howard's conduct of the war in telling of his experience as guide, from which the following extracts are taken:

"Of the Indians there were probably six or seven hundred, mostly Bannocks and Piutes. The old men, women and children formed the van, the fighting men the rear. With the Indians were between two and three hundred head of horses, and these were driven or herded by those unable to fight. The wickiups, personal property and plunder was packed on poles which were dragged by horses. The advance section did most of the plundering and pillaging.

"General Howard's plan was to make no attempt to drive the Indians, but rather to follow them closely and keep them headed northward if possible, planning to surround and capture them on the Columbia river. He was afraid that if the Indians were pushed too hard they might make a dash across the Columbia before he could place troops and boats there in sufficient numbers to check them while he cut off their retreat. During the whole time that the Indians were marching northward, troops had been gathering along the Columbia river, but their movements were very slow. Up to this time but one battle had been fought in this region, the battle of Silver creek, in which the Indians held their own and might be said to have been victorious. As to General Howard's ability, opinions differ, but that he was sincere in his belief that it would be disastrous policy to push the Indians too hard there is no doubt in my mind. The Indians did not go very far out of their way to commit depredations, but confined themselves strictly to their line of march, evidently wishing to delay hostilities until they were reinforced by their Umatilla allies.

"Thus the army moved slowly, going from Long creek north along the middle fork of the John Day, and thence to the north fork and down on Camas Prairie toward Pendleton. Our route was marked on every hand by evidence of destruction and carnage. Sometimes we found ranch buildings razed to the ground by fire; again simply ransacked, furniture destroyed, clothes, carpets, etc., stolen, windows broken and goods scattered about. Occasionally we found a white man murdered by savages. At all the ranches the stock had been driven away or killed, and one had only to notice the dead horses and the cattle along the road to know that the Indians had passed that way. At one ranch on Birch creek we found a baby carriage drawn out under the arbor leading to the house and in the carriage was a dead colt. At another place, evidently a dairy farm, in Camas Prairie, our attention was attracted by a huge pile of butter stacked up near the house. From the appearance of it the little Indians had used it as a toboggan slide. As we approached one place we noticed a high white pyramid. At first we could not make out what it was, but as we drew nearer we saw that it was composed of dead sheep, several hundred of them. One of the most pitiful and fre-

quent sights was that of a dead lamb tied between two posts so that it could not move and under its body the ashes of a small fire, showing that it had been burned to death. Around these dead lambs were always small moccasin tracks, indicating this was the work of the children."

Evidently the little demons incarnate were endeavoring to emulate the fiendish acts of their parents in burning human victims at the stake.

These savages seemed to have possessed a grim sense of humor. Two of the scouts, George and Ben Froman, told of one place they stopped where some of the Indians had invaded a vacated home. The savages had set the kitchen table and at each plate had put a cup filled with kerosene. At another place they had dipped the family cat in a keg of syrup and then rolled it in a feather bed. W. G. Thomson told of another incident of the Indians invading a dairy ranch and killed the dairyman whose name was Nelson. The dairyman had a number of fat hogs. After killing the hogs the Indians carefully laid them out and placed a cake of cheese under each hog's head.

Mr. Thomson said that after the defeat of the Indians at Willow Springs, near the Umatilla reservation, they started to retreat to their own reservations. Colonel Green followed along what is now the John Day highway and General Howard's troopers traveled a parallel course about forty miles to the west. When Colonel Green camped at the J. L. Cole place on lower Willow creek, Mr. Thompson and his five friends joined the command as scouts and the same day scouted about forty miles to the west. On Red's creek they struck the Indian trail and followed it down to the Dan Brady place on Bully creek. They could see the dust made by the Indians as they traveled on toward the Malheur, having just left the Brady place. It was fortunate for Dan Brady that he was out riding the range that day, Mr. Thomson said. As he was returning home, riding along a ridge overlooking his cabin and corrals, he discovered the Indians were paying him a visit. They had some of Brady's horses in a corral and were selecting new mounts. Brady drew rein about five hundred yards from his home and watched them. Two of the Indians saw him and started after his scalp. Brady's horse did not want to leave the ranch and Dan had difficulty in getting him started. Telling of the incident later this son of Erwin said:

"I whipped and I slashed him but he would not run. With spurs I cut gashes in him about five inches long an yo' bet yer life he got up and run. I went to Juniper mountain that time."

Some teamsters hauling grain from the Boise valley to the Eldorado mines were surprised one morning in Road canyon about two and a half miles above the present town of Brogan. Among the freighters were Ben C. Richardson and Chauncy Eaton, two prominent pioneers. While eating breakfast they were fired on from ambush. The first shot by the savages struck the frying pan, knocking it into the gully. None of the teamsters were injured, but they all made a quick dive, headlong, following the frying pan into the ravine.

The last depredation by one band of the retreating Bannocks in Mal-

heur county was at the Nat Graves horse camp on Succor creek. Graves was in his cabin at the time and the first intimation he had that the Indians were anywhere about was when he saw them corralling his saddle horses. He escaped from his cabin without being seen by the savages and hid under a clump of partly uprooted willows that were lying on the creek bank. He remained there until the Indians secured new mounts and left. Graves was near enough to the corral to hear the Indians talking. When they roped a horse, one of the Bannocks who could speak a little English, would exclaim: "Whoa, dam hoss."

CHAPTER 13

THE ROAD LANDS

*Well, neighbors meant counties in those days;
The roads didn't have accomodating ways;
And month would pass before she'd see—
And much less talk to—anyone but me.
—From Will Carlton's, "The First Settler's Story."*

The awarding of every alternate section of government land along a six-mile strip through the most fertile valleys of Eastern Oregon to two roadland companies greatly retarded the settlement of this part of the state—particularly Malheur and Harney counties. This action resulted in forcing the homesteaders to settle at least a mile apart. The road companies placed a higher price on the lands than the settlers paid the government to secure title through the homestead and pre-emption acts. The road companies also withheld some of their lands from the market, which further retarded settlement and development of the country through which the two military roads passed.

A vast amount of the public domain at different times in the past has been donated by the government to railroad companies as a bonus to induce them to construct rail lines across uninhabited parts of the nation. Lands have also been donated to private corporations as a bonus for the construction of military wagon roads. Charges have been made that large acreages of the public domain have been fraudently obtained by some "land-grabbers," much to the detriment to the settlers. This injustice, to a large extent, has been blamed to incompetent and short-sighted law makers of both the

state and nation. It is plainly evident that some parts of the military roads were never completed in accordance with the contracts and some parts that were built were not completed in time for the purpose for which they were built—for the use of troops and transportation of military supplies. It has been charged that certain state officials accepted some of the road that had not been completed as required by contract, yet the road company was awarded title to the land granted for construction. The first sale of public lands in Oregon was made in 1857 under a proclamation issued by the President of the United States.

Only about ten thousand acres were sold at that time, from which the government received little more than enough to pay for the surveying of the land. The homestead law, passed in 1862, limited homestead filings by settlers to one hundred and sixty acres. Settlers were just beginning to avail themselves of this opportunity and the pre-emption act when the President again authorized the sale of 400,000 acres of government land. All public land was temporarily withdrawn from homestead and pre-emption privileges. Many settlers who had expended their available funds in improvements on their claims were forced to borrow money at a high rate of interest to pay out on the land or abandon their claims.

The pre-emption law, passed in 1860, provided for the possessory and pre-emption rights to the 500,000 acres of land donated to the state by the United States government. This act provided that any citizen, or any person having declared his intention of becoming such, was entitled to pre-empt any portion of land contained in this grant, in tracts of not less than 40 acres or more than 320 acres. The claimant was required to have the land he desired surveyed at his own expense by the county surveyor. To secure title, the claimant was required to pay the purchase price of \$1.25 an acre any time within a ten-year period, during which period he was required to pay interest on the purchase price of ten per cent per annum. When the lands were withdrawn by the government those who had filed pre-emption claims ran the risk of having the land they had filed on sold at public auction unless they immediately paid out on their claims. After the sale of 13,000 acres of land the government rescinded the withdrawal order and the government lands were again thrown open to settlement under the homestead, pre-emption and timber culture acts.

The government neglected to have the Oregon lands surveyed east of the Cascade mountains and many squatter claims were taken up by settlers ahead of surveyors. The Oregon legislature petitioned Congress to extend the surveys east of the mountains in Wasco county. At that time Malheur county was a part of Wasco county. Congress made the authorization but overlooked making the necessary appropriations for the purpose of having the lands surveyed.

On June 25, 1860, an act was passed by Congress, providing an appropriation, and authorizing the survey of the Oregon-Washington boundary line along the forty-sixth parallel from Fort Walla Walla on the Columbia river to the Snake river near the mouth of Grand Ronde river. The Columbia river had already been designated as the boundary line from the Pacific Ocean to Fort Walla Walla. The contract for the survey which was only about one hundred miles long, was awarded to Daniel G. Major. On account of much delay, the survey was not completed until 1864. By the time the survey of the north boundary of the state was completed the mining settlements of Eastern Oregon insisted on the establishment of the boundary line between Oregon and Idaho south from a point on the Snake river near the mouth of the Owyhee river to the Nevada line. The Snake river had been designated as the eastern boundary of Oregon from the mouth of the Owyhee to the northeast corner of the state. The settlers also urged that section corners of the land be permanently established by government survey in order that homestead and mining claims could be legally filed on.

There was the necessity for the permanent establishment of the southern state line along the forty-second parallel between Oregon and Nevada. The contract for these surveys was also awarded to D. G. Major. Owing to the inability of securing men because of high wages paid in mining camps, and other difficulties, the work of surveying the government lands was not started until 1867. On account of Indian troubles it became necessary for a military escort to protect the surveyors and guard their supply trains. Notwithstanding this and other obstacles, by 1869, there had been surveyed 8,368,564 of the 60,975,360 acres of land in the state.

The section posts were of willow, hewed square near the top, on which was carved the four section numbers cornering at the point where the posts were set in the ground. The posts were set on mounds and extended about two feet above the ground. These mounds were built from dirt thrown up from four sides so as to reveal the section corner in its proper location in case the post should decay or be carried away in later years. I worked with the Ward surveying party, as rodman and chairman, in resurveying and enlarging the Ontario townsite for David Wilson. With Ward, and later with J. E. Johnson, I was employed in the same capacity in surveying the Wilson and Owyhee ditches. In surveying the townsite and locating the line of the two ditches it was necessary for us to trace out the section lines and locate the section corners. This work was performed some twenty-five years after the original government surveys had been made. In a very few instances we found the section posts standing in their original place, but in most cases they had decayed at the top of the ground. Some of the posts we found lying near the section mounds while in other places they were missing. However, the exact location of the section corner could be definitely

established by digging into the mound and finding the rotten portion of the post where it had been set in the ground.

What evidently was good intentions on the part of Congress in an effort to develop this state, the government was thwarted and betrayed by monopolistic land grabbing corporations. By an act of Congress, approved July 5, 1866, a grant of land was made to the State of Oregon for the purpose of aiding in the construction of military roads within the state. Two months after the enactment of this law the state legislature fulfilled the necessary requirements and entered into a contract with the Oregon Central Military Road Company authorizing the construction of such a wagon road. The Oregon Military Road Company was organized by seventeen incorporators with a capital stock of \$30,000. Subsequently, the capital stock of the company was increased to \$100,000 with the shares placed at \$250 each. Later the name of the corporation was changed to the Willamette Valley & Cascade Mountain Wagon Road Company.

A contract was entered into between the state and the newly organized company for the construction of a military wagon road to be built east from Eugene, across the Cascade mountains by way of Diamond peak and Canyon City to the Oregon-Idaho line. The route was subsequently altered for the road to start from Albany, in the Willamette valley and run east over the Cascade mountains, leading to Camp Harney and from there on to the Snake river in the vicinity of where Ontario was later located.

By authorization made by an act of Congress the road company was given every alternate section of land extending three miles on each side of the road for a distance of 487 miles, which was the entire distance of the proposed military road, making a strip six miles wide. If any part of the land allotted to the company had previously been filed on by settlers the company was authorized to select the same amount in lieu thereof, within the six mile limit, anywhere they should choose along the route. The only requirement made of the company was that the money obtained from the sale of these lands should be applied on the construction of the road, or the amount necessary for that purpose. The road was to remain free to the United States government as a military and post road. It was provided that the land should be sold in allotments not exceeding thirty sections at any one time upon the completion of ten continuous miles of the road. These sales were to be made from time to time until the road was completed. The road was to be completed within five years. If not completed within the specified time the unsold lands would revert back to the government.

This land grant gave the road company 1,920 acres of land, or three sections of land, for every mile of road built. At the government set minimum of \$1.25 an acre the road could have been constructed at a much lower price. But the company received much more than that price for some of the land. Along the first twenty miles of the road in the Willamette valley all the

land had previously been acquired by settlers. Upon representation being made to the government the company was permitted to select the same amount of land of their own choosing from other parts of the public domain farther east on either side of the road within a six mile limit. The first thirty sections, 19,200 acres, with which to begin the survey of the road, was offered for sale in March, 1865. With the money derived from the sale of land and road company stock the road was completed to the summit of the Cascade mountains in the autumn of 1867. This was the most expensive and difficult part of the road to build.

This military wagon road passed through portions of the Modoc, Klamath and Piute Indian reservations in the vicinity of Warner mountain. The Indians did not object to a government road passing through their reservations, but rightly contended—through their agents—that no part of their reservation lands should be taken from them and given to private corporations to later be sold to settlers. This matter was satisfactorily adjusted, as far as the Indians and road company were concerned, by the government permitting the company to select 93,000 acres, the amount of Indian lands they would have acquired, at other points along the road within the specified limits.

Although the Willamette valley and Cascade mountain wagon road was not fully completed in accordance with the specified agreement, nor was it constructed as a military road should be, the road was accepted and patents were issued to the company giving them title to what is known as the road lands. It was said the transaction transferring the land to the company was consummated at a banquet given by the company at Salem at which wine freely flowed. It has also been declared that the governor, upon discovering later that he had signed the necessary papers, completing the transfer, attempted to nullify the transaction. By the act the road company was presented with about 900,000 acres of public land.

The early settlers preferred government land in preference to paying higher prices for the purchase of road land. Considerable sentiment was aroused among the settlers against the company. The opinion prevailed that the road land had not been legitimately acquired and agitation was aroused urging the government to take action to recover the property. The road company, finding itself taxed as a private corporation, sold its remaining land to a German syndicate on August 19, 1871. These purchasers organized the Pacific Land Company and established headquarters in San Francisco.

A similar donation of another part of the public domain in the state was made to another syndicate for the construction of a military wagon road from The Dalles to old Fort Boise. Acting on authority of an act passed by Congress in October, 1868, the state entered into a contract whereby about 600,000 acres of land was awarded to The Dalles Military Road Com-

pany for the construction work. These lands consisted of some of the best farming and grazing land in the state. The survey of this road, leading from The Dalles, went up the John Day river and over a divide to the north fork of the Malheur river, entering Malheur county near the headwaters of Willow creek. Then followed down Willow creek along the route of the old emigrant road to the Malheur river ford at Vale hot springs, and continued along the old emigrant road to old Fort Boise. The Dalles military road and the Willamette valley and Cascade mountain military road intersected at the Malheur river ford.

Sometime after securing title to the land, The Dalles Military Road Company disposed of its land holdings to the Eastern Oregon Land Company. The latter company also established headquarters in San Francisco. The Dalles military road, although not fulfilling all the requirements of the contract, was a better road than the Willamette-Cascade road, particularly where it traversed the old emigrant road.

The Willamette valley and Cascade mountain road passed mostly through a hitherto untraveled country. The road, east of the Cascades, was not completed within the time limit. The road between Albany and the mountains was used very little and was practically abandoned in 1868 when a wagon road from Ashland was built through a pass farther south to the Klamath lake region. It followed the emigrant trail along the old southern route first discovered by Jesse Applegate and his exploring party in 1846.

Years after the two road companies had been given title to the land, settlers, desirous of obtaining homes, made efforts to have the road companies' contracts annulled and the land returned to the public domain. Had the attempt been made at an earlier date it is probable that the land would have been regained by the government and thrown open to settlement. But the long delay before such action was taken worked to the benefit of the road companies.

On June 17, 1874, Congress authorized the issuing of patents to the Willamette Valley & Cascade Mountain Wagon Road Company for the land that had been granted by the State of Oregon, with this proviso:

"This shall not be construed to revive any land grant already expired nor to create any new rights of any kind, except to provide for the issuing of patents for land to which the state is already entitled."

Under this statute, on June 19, 1876, patents were issued to the road company for 107,893 acres of land.

In March, 1878, a complaint was filed by the citizens of Oregon with the Secretary of the Interior, setting forth that the road had not been completed according to the original provisions of the land grant. Two years later, in 1880, a special agent was appointed to investigate the matter and report his findings on the complaint. In October, 1880, the agent reported to the effect that the road and particularly the eastern portion, had not been

constructed in accordance with the Act of Congress. In the lower house of Congress the matter was submitted to the committee on military affairs, which recommended that no action be taken.

In February, 1882, further charges, with proofs submitted, were presented to Congress. In the House the charges were referred to the committee on public lands and in the Senate to the committee on military affairs. Both committees advised that no action be taken by Congress on the grounds "the Executive Department of the Government had ample authority in law without any instructions from the legislative department."

Thereupon the Secretary of the Interior made an investigation of the matter and as a result directed the commissioner of the general land office to certify the lands for patent. In October, 1882, patents were issued to the road company for 440,856 acres more of land the company had selected. The settlers still insisted that the government take legal action to recover the land from the road company, and it was then that legal action was commenced. In 1888, the Willamette Valley & Cascade Mountain Road Company, in order to strengthen its claim to the land, imported about two hundred Chinese coolie laborers to work on the road. According to contract, the road should have been completed by 1872. The last Indian war in Eastern Oregon was over in 1878 and by 1881 all hostile Indians had been removed to reservations outside the state. Before 1888, Camp Harney, the last military post in Eastern Oregon, had been abandoned and the only place government troops were still stationed was at the Boise barracks. There was no necessity for a military road through Eastern and Central Oregon at the time the road company imported cheap foreign labor to work on the road.

At that time citizens in general in the west were strongly opposed to the immigration law that admitted this class of cheap labor to compete with American laborers and a Chinese exclusion act was being advocated. The bringing in of cheap coolie labor to grub sage brush off a military road some seventeen years after the time limit had expired greatly aroused the antagonism of settlers. This was ten years after the last Indian war and the last opportunity for Indian outbreaks had long been removed. Upon arrival at Ontario the coolies were met by heavy freight wagons and their baggage was loaded into them near the depot. I was a boy of seventeen at the time and saw the luggage loaded into the wagons and leave for the interior. They started work on the road between Vale and the Harper ranch.

The contract between the state and road company called for the construction of wagon bridges across streams where needed. No bridges were built in this county by the company until 1888 when a wagon bridge was built across the Malheur river about two miles below the Harper ranch, near the present town of Harper. A few years later the bridge was blown down by a heavy wind storm. This was the second bridge built across the Mal-

heur river. The first bridge in the county—known as the Halliday bridge—was at the T. W. Halliday place, on the Ontario-Burns stage road, about six miles east of Vale. It was built at the time Malheur county was a part of Baker county. The first wagon bridge built across the Malheur river by the County of Malheur was built at Vale about 1892. This bridge was constructed by J. E. Johnson, first county surveyor, who was the engineer and contractor.

On March 2, 1889, Congress passed an act instructing the Attorney General of the United States to bring suit against all claimants of land that had been granted for road construction "to determine the question of the reasonable and proper completion of said road in accordance with the terms of the granting act, either in whole or in part, and the legal effect of the several certificates of the Governor of Oregon, of the completion of the road, and to declare forfeited to the United States all land not earned in accordance with said act, saving and reserving the rights of all bona fide purchasers of such land for valuable consideration." The act also provided that said suit or suits should "be tried and adjudicated in like manner and by the same principals and rules of jurisprudence as other suits of equity therein tried."

The Government in presenting the case before Judge Gilbert, of the United States Federal Court in 1892, alleged that no portion of the road was completed in accordance with the contract within the time limited for the completion of said road. That the certificates issued by the Governor were defective in form and that they were procured by fraud and misrepresentations made by the road company. That the present grantees of the land had purchased said land from the road company with knowledge of these facts.

The defendant company, in possession of the land at that time, of which Alexander Wiell and David Cahn were the principal owners, made answer to the complaint. In their answer they contended that the road was completed in all respects as required by the granting act and within the time limit. They further contended that the certificate of the Governor of Oregon was conclusive evidence of the completion of the road and upon the strength of the certificate of the governor the purchasers became the bonafide owners of the land. Even conceding that the road was not completed within the time limit, it was completed before any declaration of forfeiture by the United States government, and it was completed in the manner required by the act, and thus the forfeiture was avoided. They further contended that the defendants, after purchasing the land, relied upon the action of Congress in 1874, directing the issuance of patents to the land. Also upon the investigation made by Congress in 1874, and the action of the Secretary of Interior directing the issuance of patents after his investigation in 1882. As the result of the above actions the company alleged they had

expended large sums of money in and about said lands in repairing said road, and thereby the government had been estopped to claim forfeiture.

Judge Gilbert, in rendering his decision awarding the lands to the defendants, admitted that in his opinion the road, especially the eastern portion, was not completed in accordance with the purpose of the granting act. But due to the apparent good faith of the purchasing company, who paid for the land a price commensurate with its value at that time, and the delay of the government in bringing action to recover, the judge decided the government was stopped and awarded a verdict for the defendant company. One of the main points on which Judge Gilbert's decision was rendered were the four certificates signed by Governor Woods. I here quote from Judge Gilbert's decision:

"Within the time limit for the construction of the road, the whole line of road from Albany to the state line, 487 miles in all, was certified to have been completed in the manner required by the act, by four special certificates by the Governor of Oregon, the first being dated April 11, 1868, and the last June 24, 1871."

Charles Altschul was head of the German syndicate at the time the last decision was rendered by the court awarding the road lands to the Willamette Valley & Cascade Wagon Road Company. The final decision of the courts which gave the road lands to a foreign syndicate was awarded to the Altschul Company, mainly on the grounds that this company was an innocent purchaser. Colonel C. E. S. Wood, the prominent Portland attorney, now deceased, very ably represented the road land company and secured the final decision awarding the lands to them. As part pay for his legal services, Colonel Wood acquired large tracts of the road lands in Malheur county. Some of these fertile lands were converted into fine alfalfa farms by his two sons, Erskine and Burwick Wood. He was the same Colonel Wood who was General O. O. Howard's aide-de-camp in the three Indian wars of 1877-88. Charles Altschul sold the Willamette Valley & Cascade Mountain Wagon Road lands to the Oregon Western Colonization Company. This last named company, like the Eastern Oregon Land Company, that acquired the Dalles Military Road lands, established local offices in Ontario and Vale and have disposed of most of the road lands to settlers.

In the early settlement of the county, many of the settlers, unfamiliar with the road laws were unable to determine which was road land and which was government land, made the mistake of locating on road land. When the mistake was discovered most of them vacated the land and re-located on government land. Had they been familiar with the land laws these settlers could have obtained title to the land as riparian owners by residing on the property for three years on the ground they had held undisputed possession for that length of time. They could then have obtained title from the government. Attorney Will R. King secured title through court proceedings for some of the settlers on the above grounds when they contested the rights

of the road company to the property. Two of such cases I remember were instituted by Judge King against the road company for T. J. Brosnan and Frank O'Neil. In both of these cases he won a favorable decision for his clients.

CHAPTER 14

SNAKE RIVER FERRIES

*A chieftain, to the Highland bound,
Cries "Boatman, do not tarry!
And I'll give thee a silver pound,
To row us o'er the ferry."
—Thomas Campbell.*

The first permanent ferry on the Snake river, in the lower part of the valley was at the former site of old Fort Boise. Two Americans, H. P. Isaac and Orlando Humason, operated a ferry there in the early fifties after the fort had been abandoned by the British fur company. They also conducted a tavern at the old fort for the accommodation of emigrants. Soon after the Ward massacre near there in August, 1854, they abandoned the ferry and fort and returned to The Dalles. In earlier days, emigrants crossed the Snake by means of make shift ferries made from wagon beds.

Mrs. Nancy C. Glenn, mother of Arthur, Frank and Walter Glenn, arrived in Grand Ronde valley in a wagon train with her husband and family from Iowa in August, 1862. In a letter to her parents in Iowa, she mentioned a ferry operated by Mormons at that time near Fort Hall. The first permanent settlement in Idaho was started by thirteen Mormon families at Franklin, about seventy-five miles southeast of old Fort Hall, April 14, 1860. Evidently the ferry near Fort Hall was established by Mormons from this colony sometime between April, 1860, and August, 1862.

In the summer of 1865 Lieutenant Walker was sent with twenty-two men of the 1st Oregon Volunteer Cavalry to guard Gibson's ferry above Fort Hall from Indian attacks.

The Riverside ferry was established by Jonathan Keeney at the former site of old Fort Boise in the summer of 1863, and has sometimes been called Keeney ferry. Others who became associated with Mr. Keeney in operating the Riverside ferry were John B. McLoughlin, John Duval, G. W. Brin-

non, F. K. Froman and John Benson. Mr. Keeney sold his interests in the ferry in 1868. Like most transactions in the early pioneer days, fares for crossing the ferries were paid in gold dust.

The Washoe ferry, operated just below the mouth of the Malheur river, and Olds ferry, about ten miles below Weiser, were installed about the same time or shortly after the Riverside ferry was put in. The Central ferry, operated near Weiser, was put in some time later.

The Washoe ferry was first installed by two brothers named Stewart and a man named Bryant. The ferryboat, which was 40x60 feet, had no cable and was manned by six men with oars.

When the ferry was first installed it became a rendezvous for an organized gang of horse-thieves. In February, 1865, vigilantes from the Payette valley came to the ferry and took into custody the two Stewarts and Bryant. The three men were taken to Falks store and placed overnight in a one-room log house to be tried by a vigilante court the next morning on the charge of horse stealing. A guard was placed at the building to keep watch during the night. Sometime in the night, Bryant, who was a locksmith, managed to unlock the door with a nail he had found. The three prisoners eluded the guard and made their way back to the Snake river before daylight. Had they not escaped they undoubtedly would have been hanged the next day by the vigilantes. Knowing they would be pursued, they swam the icy waters of the river, secured their rifles and started out over the emigrant road in the direction of Tub Springs. When they saw they were about to be overtaken by the vigilantes they secreted themselves in a place from which it would be difficult to dislodge or capture them. After a parley, the vigilantes agreed to let them go on their way if they would promise never to return to the locality, which they agreed to do. After agreeing never to return to the Washoe ferry they went on to Powder river valley. One of the Stewarts, who had once met W. H. Packwood, Sr., stopped at Packwood's place in Auburn and sold him the ferry.

Mr. Packwood gave an interesting account of his first meeting with Stewart and of the later transaction leading to the transfer of the ferry. Their first meeting occurred one night in 1862 when Mr. Packwood was conducting a store in the mining town of Auburn.

"To show," Mr. Packwood said, "what little things lead up to, one night I was called from bed by a young man about twenty-two years old, who told me he wanted some meat. He said he was penniless; had walked from California and had not had any meat to eat for three months."

Without making a light, Mr. Packwood directed him to the back of the store, where he could find some bacon, and told him to get what he wanted. In the darkness the man found a shoulder. He started to tell Mr. Packwood his name but the merchant told him that would be unnecessary; if he ever got the money he could come and pay the bill; if not, it would be all right,

anyway. Mr. Packwood said he would never have been able to recognize the man again, as the deal was made in the dark, and he never knew Stewart's name until he came to the store some time afterward and paid the bill.

After escaping from the vigilantes, Stewart went by way of Auburn to see Packwood and tell him his troubles. Stewart said he would be unable to return to the Washoe ferry and told Packwood to take the ferry and if he was able to make anything out of it he could pay him and Bryant what he thought it was worth. Mr. Packwood accepted the offer and after legally getting possession of the property from other parties who had obtained possession of the ferry through a sheriff's sale, paid Stewart and Bryant \$5,000. Mr. Packwood said, that as far as he knew, both Stewart and Bryant were honest men. From what Packwood said it appears Stewart's brother did not have an interest in the ferry and was a member of a band of outlaws. He also stated that both Stewart and Bryant were killed some time later.

Olds ferry was installed by R. P. Olds, who had been a former employee of the Hudson Bay Company. After the horse thief band had been broken up and W. H. Packwood gained legal possession of the Washoe ferry he formed a partnership with R. P. Olds, owner of Olds ferry, and John Parton, head of the Parton & Company toll road up Burnt river. The Oregon Road, Bridge & Ferry Company was organized with a capital stock of \$300,000 with Packwood, Parton and Olds as directors. Mr. Packwood was chosen as manager of the company. The purpose of this company was to connect all stage roads leading from Umatilla Landing and Walla Walla over the Blue mountains at Express ranch on the toll road running down Burnt river to the Snake river ferries. All express and freight was directed over this route. They put in a third ferry between Weiser and Payette which was known as the Central ferry. A road was built from Olds ferry along the banks of the Snake river to the Washoe ferry, connecting the three ferries with roads leading to Boise and the Idaho mines. A toll road was built along the Burnt river thirty-five miles to the Straw ranch.

A townsite was laid out at the Washoe ferry by a man named Bryne, according to Bancroft, and was given the name of Josephine. But it appears the town failed to materialize or vanished at a later date. Mr. Packwood had small fire-proof forts built at the ferries for defense in case of Indian attacks. The three ferries were in the direct line of travel by packers and freighters between the Eastern Oregon and Southern Idaho mines and proved very profitable to their owners. Mr. Packwood stated that within the nine months from May 16, 1866, and January 16, 1867, the income of the company was \$103,000, and that the income of one day would sometimes be \$1,000.

During the four years the company operated the three ferries, 1865-68, bad debts amounted to less than \$2,000, although many times they had con-

siderable more than that amount outstanding on the books. Packwood stated this, he said, "To show the honesty of the sturdy old pioneers who blazed the way for civilization," and added that "business could not be profitably conducted in that manner now." The company trusted all those packing into the mines—some of whom they had never seen before—upon their promise to pay on the return trip. Invariably the packers did return and pay their debts. After the Union Pacific railroad was built through Utah and connected with the Central Pacific, supplies were brought into the Idaho mines from Kelton and the business of the Oregon Road, Bridge and Ferry Company rapidly declined. Agricultural development in local communities also caused a decline in the importation of supplies. In 1868, the company disposed of its ferries and toll roads and retired from business. Mr. Packwood then went to Baker City where he made his home until his death.

W. H. Packwood, Sr., was one of Oregon's best known pioneers. He came West with the gold seekers from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to California in 1849. The next year, 1850, he moved to Western Oregon. Mr. Packwood was a member of the state constitutional convention that convened in Salem on August 17, 1857. He came to Eastern Oregon with the gold rush of 1862, and was one of the founders of the flourishing mining town of Auburn and was the first school superintendent of Baker county. He was one of the incorporators of the Eldorado ditch and at one time had considerable mining interest at Malheur City. For over fifty years he was a leading citizen of Baker county. He was the last surviving member of the memorable body that drafted the Oregon state constitution, being considerably over eighty years old at the time of his death.

Every known means of transportation in the early days, except railroad trains, crossed these three ferries. Trappers, miners, emigrants, U. S. cavalry, freighters and packers crossed the Snake river at these points. Olds ferry was at one time attacked by Indians and it is said an emigrant train was held there for three weeks until the siege was raised. William Green, a squaw man, who had a Umatilla wife and several half-breed children, succeeded Mr. Packwood at Olds ferry. Three of the owners of this ferry were drowned; among them George Harper, who was dragged from the boat when his legs became entangled in the cable which pulled him into the river. Jesse Darr, father of Mrs. Martha Farley, and her husband, J. H. Farley, operated the ferry for some time during the Eighties.

The Henderson ferry, a few miles southwest of Caldwell and the Walters ferry near Nampa, were in operation long before these two Idaho towns came into existence. Both ferries were installed somewhere around 1865 on roads connecting the Boise basin and Silver City mines and were also in direct line with the roads leading from California to Boise over which supplies were brought to that city and the Basin mines. Riverside ferry

was also utilized by freighters traveling the Chico and Humboldt routes bringing in supplies from California.

The building of the town of Kelton, Utah, following the building of the Union Pacific railroad greatly reduced the length of the road for hauling of freight to Boise and localities in that vicinity. Kelton was ninety-one miles west of Ogden and about two hundred miles from Boise. Kelton was built on a salt desert about forty miles north of Great Salt Lake shortly after the transcontinental road was completed to that point in 1869. Kelton was a typical desert town, not even located on a oasis. Because of the barrenness of the soil nothing grew within two miles of the town except alkali weeds. The railroad company drilled a well and struck artesian water. The water contained so much saleratus it could not be used for locomotives and it became necessary to build a pipe line from a small mountain stream eight miles away to supply water for the town.

The town of Kelton was never attacked during troublesome Indian times, and during the Bannock war of 1878 settlers from miles around moved into Kelton. The railroad company kept a locomotive attached to several box cars in readiness to evacuate residents should the town be attacked.

Not long after the town of Kelton was founded, Charles C. Glenn installed a ferry across the Snake river on the Kelton-Boise road at the present town of Glenn's Ferry. "Three-Islands Ford," two miles below Glenn's Ferry, was one of the regular emigrant crossings on the Snake river. This ford was difficult for heavily loaded freight wagons to navigate and led to the installation of the ferry. A little later Payne's ferry was installed about ten miles below Glenn's ferry. Kelton was the southern terminus where stage lines from the northwest connected with the railroad. Stage stations along the route, where changes of horses were made, were about twelve miles apart.

About 1866, F. K. Froman, who had been conducting the Riverside ferry, put in a ferry above Riverside near Parma which he operated until he moved to Falk's store. Later he located on the Malheur river above Vale.

In 1872, W. W. Emison and his brother, "Buck" Emison, came from Baker to operate the Washoe ferry for W. H. Packwood. William Emison soon purchased the ferry from Mr. Packwood and operated it for some time until he sold the property to G. W. Brinnon. Mr. Brinnon operated the ferry until 1884 and sold it to Captain W. W. Paine, a Union veteran of the Civil War, who had recently arrived from Illinois. The Oregon Short Line railroad had just built through the Snake river valley and the towns of Ontario and Payette had recently been located on opposite sides of the Snake river, only four miles apart. Captain Paine moved the ferry up the Snake river about a half-mile above the railroad bridges so that it would be much more convenient for travel between the two towns. This did

away with the Washoe ferry and travel on the old emigrant road leading west from the ferry by way of Tub Springs was abandoned.

Probably the first white man to operate a salmon fishery on the Snake river was James Henoty, who established a fishery at Washoe ferry, on the Idaho side of the river about 1870. Mr. Henoty, a bachelor, built a small double-log cabin on the Idaho side, which was the first house in Washoe bottom. He employed two men, Andy McGuern and Dick Luce, who resided with him in the cabin. The fishery proved profitable. In 1873, Mr. Henoty went to Kelton, Utah, to meet his future wife, Miss Bridgett Morgan, who arrived by train at Kelton from Cincinnati, Ohio. They were married at the Catholic church in Boise and Jim Henoty took his bride to the fishery to reside. He built a frame house for his bride about a hundred yards north of the cabin.

Henoty was drowned while attempting to ford the Payette river on a horse near Falk's store in 1884. After her husband's death, Mrs. Henoty sold the place to Jacob Stroup and returned to her former home in Cincinnati.

The well known pioneer, Arthur Nichols, when a small boy, lived with his parents, the D. M. Nichols, in the Falk's store vicinity in the '70s. Arthur told me that during the spawning seasons, salmon with their tails, would dig holes in the river bed as deep as ten feet, which made the river very dangerous to ford. This fact may account for the drowning of Jim Henoty.

Indians were quite troublesome at the time the Nichols were residing in the Payette valley. The Nichols family were long time dwellers in the Ironside locality and Arthur conducted a store there. Many times he has traveled over the old emigrant road between Falk's store and Ironside by way of Washoe ferry and Tub Springs as early as 1874.

After the death of Jim Henoty the salmon fishery was operated for some time by William O'Brien and G. W. Brinnon. In 1887-88, F. M. Draper and W. J. Mink conducted the fishery.

The method for fishing for salmon was with a large seine about 300 feet in length and five feet in width. The seining operation was conducted by two men, with one in a skiff and the other on a horse. Before starting to make a drag the seine was properly folded so it would not tangle when unwinding as it was placed on a platform in the rear of the boat. A rope of some length was attached to one end of the seine and securely fastened to the platform. Another long rope was made fast to the other end of the seine and the man on the horse snubbed this end of the rope to his saddle horn. The net was rigged with corks and sinkers at proper distances apart.

The skiff was then rowed out into mid-stream, then the oarman would abruptly turn the boat and swiftly row down-stream as the net was

loosened and unfolded from the platform to sink into the water. At the same time the man mounted on the horse rode down along a long gravel bar at the water's edge. After rowing down stream for some distance the boatman would again turn suddenly and row the boat as swiftly as possible to shore. The two men, now on foot proceeded to draw the seine ashore, working and pulling on the ropes at each end of the net. Sometimes the net would be so full of fish it was difficult to draw it in to the bank. Other times a sturgeon or large salmon would break through and let the other fish escape through the torn place. It then required some time to mend the net before another haul could be made. Sometimes a drag would be made without catching a single fish. This was called "a water haul."

Sturgeon were fished for with hook and line. The hooks were about six or eight inches in length and about as large around as a lead pencil. The fish lines were made of one-fourth inch ropes. Part of a jackrabbit or a large chunk of meat was used as bait. The largest sturgeon caught by G. W. Brinnon at the Washoe ferry weighed over five hundred pounds. F. M. Draper caught one sturgeon with hook and line that weighed about four hundred pounds. This may sound like "a big fish story," but it can be vouched for by a number of the old time residents. In fishing for sturgeon the line was anchored to a tree or some weighty object and the hook and line cast into the river to remain over night.

My brother-in-law, F. M. Draper and family, occupied the Henoty frame house at the time he and W. J. Mink were operating the fishery. The Mink family also resided there for awhile. I have spent a number of nights at the Henoty place while visiting the Draper family.

About 1887, S. P. Richards, who had recently arrived from Illinois, purchased the Henoty place from Jacob Stroup. Mr. Richards engaged in cattle raising and converted the old log cabin into a cow barn. The family occupied the frame building as a dwelling. The first time I ever witnessed the branding of calves with a branding iron was in a corral attached to the old log stable at the Richard's place.

S. P. Richards was a brother of Mrs. W. W. Paine, wife of Captain Paine, who purchased the Washoe ferry from G. W. Brinnon. Mrs. Richards' two granddaughters, the Misses Foibel and Thea Young, came from Chicago to reside with their grandmother and attended the Washoe school. Foibel became the wife of the late Lou Adam, the pioneer lumber merchant of Ontario. Thea married C. R. Emison, the pioneer stockman and banker. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Emison married E. M. Greig, another well-known pioneer businessman of Ontario. She died September 9, 1947, and was followed in death by Mr. Greig on February 24, 1948. Mrs. Adam still makes her home at the family residence in Ontario.

Among those who operated the Riverside ferry in the Eighties and during the last years of its existence were W. A. Sevey, a Mr. McDonald,

Andrew M. Lackey and his brother, and J. T. Huff. A. M. Lackey, while operating the ferry, made as high as \$900 in one month, mostly from ferrying loose stock. Cattle and horses were ferried at 10 cents a head and sheep at 1 cent per head. A two-horse team and wagon crossed for \$1.00 and a four-horse team and wagon for \$1.50. Mr. Lackey later operated the Walters ferry near Nampa.

About 1889, B. F. Duncan, of the Missouri colony, located a homestead on the Oregon side northwest of Payette and put in a ferry across the Snake river. The ferry furnished accommodation to farmers on Dead Ox flat by greatly shortening the road to market. Duncan's 14-year-old son, Davie, was drowned one windy day while helping his father on the ferry. Becoming excited at the rough water the boy choose to swim ashore. He was drowned in the attempt and his body was never recovered.

After making final proof on his homestead, Frank Duncan sold his home and ferry and the family returned to their former home in Alba, Missouri. The tragic fate of his only son was the cause of Duncan selling the ferry. He died in Kansas City several years ago. His widow and four of their daughters now reside in Los Angeles. The Duncan ferry was operated by different owners until a highway bridge was built across the river at that place.

After operating the ferry between Ontario and Payette for some time, Captain Paine sold the property to John Bivins, a pioneer of the Payette valley. The ferry house was located on the Oregon side of the river northwest of Ontario. Captain Paine was the father of Karl Paine, the well-known attorney of Boise. Karl attended the Washoe and Ontario schools before going to college. I was a classmate of Karl at the time he attended the Ontario school.

Later operators of the Ontario-Payette ferry were Edmund Butler, F. M. Draper, W. J. Mink and L. M. Morton. George W. Clark, who for a time had operated the Ontario-Payette ferry for his brother-in-law, Ed Butler, later installed a ferry east of Ontario near the present site of the interstate highway bridge over the Snake river when settlements were started on the Payette Bench east of Ontario and the towns of New Plymouth and Fruitland were established about 1895. The Ontario-Payette ferry and the Clark ferry were abandoned when the inter-state highway bridge was built east of Ontario in 1903. This was the first highway bridge to span the Snake river. Funds for the construction of this bridge were obtained through a state appropriation by the energetic efforts of the Honorable E. H. Test, who had been elected to the lower house of the Oregon legislature from Malheur and Harney counties in 1902. S. J. Reese, brothers of Will and Clarence Reese was operating the Clark ferry at the time it was abandoned when the inter-state bridge was built.

A ferry was installed by Emison Bros. across the Snake river at Nyssa,

who had opened a store there in 1904. This ferry was put in mostly for the convenience of settlers residing on the Idaho side in that vicinity. Both the Nyssa and Riverside ferries were discontinued when the inter-state highway bridge was built at the Emison ferry.

Olds ferry was the last of the Snake river ferries to suspend operations. L. M. Morton and two of his sons, Murray and Carl Morton, were the last to operate this ferry. After operating the ferry for some time Morton turned the ferry over to his two sons. Carl, now a resident of Weiser, was operating the ferry at the time it was superceded by a highway bridge built across the river near Weiser in 1940.

COLD WINTERS

The Snake river valley has a moderate climate with mild winters. During the past 86 years, from the date of the first settlement in Malheur county, there has been only seven extremely cold winters. The cold weather seldom lasts not more than six weeks.

The first severe winter of record was in 1865-66. The cold weather started early with a heavy snowfall in the upper country in November, 1865. On Christmas night the river was frozen over at Riverside ferry. It was almost frozen over at Weiser and Olds ferry, with only a small open channel about 20 feet wide near the center. Traffic was delayed by the ferries being put out of commission. This difficulty was abridged at Weiser by two strings of heavy logs, bound strongly together to connect with the ice on each side of the channel upon which smaller cross-logs were placed and covered over with brush and dirt, to make a temporary bridge. Many wagons used this emergency structure until the spring break up.

The second severe winter was 1873-74, which started just before the holiday season with a heavy snow storm. This was followed by a thaw, when the weather again turned cold, freezing a deep crust on the snow. Many head of range stock died from lack of food because they could not break through the snow crust. Stockmen found it very difficult in rounding up the range stock. They suffered estimated 10 percent loss.

The third cold winter, and the most severe winter in the history of the Snake river valley, was that of 1880-81. No record obtainable as to the lowest temperature as all thermometers froze up. The loss of livestock was placed at 15 per cent. Livestock died when their hooves froze to the ground. Many horses, cattle and sheep died because they were unable to obtain feed. Up to that time stockmen let their stock winter on the range, calculating they would lose a small per cent, but considered that was much cheaper than to put up hay to feed them.

The Snake river was completely frozen over, the ice being three feet

thick, preventing ferries from operating. Some teamsters crossed the river on the ice with team and wagon. G. W. Brinnon was running the Washoe ferry and he and members of his family were among those who crossed the river on ice. The weather soon moderated and the ice broke up into large blocks, when it again turned quite cold, freezing the ice blocks together and making the crossing quite rough. A young man from La Grande, with a four-horse team and two wagons loaded with butter, arrived at the ferry on his way to the Placerville mines in Idaho basin, to find the ferryboat frozen in the ice. Mr. Brinnon cut a road across over the rough ice and the teamster crossed with one team and wagon at a time.

When the weather again moderated the river water rose to the edge of the doorsteps of the ferry-house. Mrs. Lizzie Brosnon said her mother tied a row boat to the doorknob so the boat would be convenient should the family suddenly be forced to vacate. Just before the ice gorge broke, the Brinnons and all other families residing on the low lands moved to higher ground until the water subsided. Mr. Brinnon said that when the ice broke up in the gorge huge blocks piled so high that the water was forced over the river bank. One channel flowed over the south and west part of where the city of Ontario is now located. Near the northwest corner of the present townsite, he said, the water was so deep it would swim a horse, and was too deep in other places to ford.

The next hard winter was that of 1884-85, which was quite similar to that of 1873-74. A deep snow, followed by a thaw, with the weather turning quite cold again, freezing a deep crust on the snow. Range stock, unable to paw through the frozen snow to grass, huddled together in groups and died from hunger and cold.

The fifth cold winter, which has been rated second coldest on record, was the winter of 1887-88. The cold spell started in January, when the Snake river was again completely frozen over, the ice being strong enough to support a team and wagon. The storm broke suddenly, sending the mercury down more than thirty degrees below zero. The thermometer registered forty below zero at the Harper ranch and sixty below at Burns.

I was 16 years old at the time and was residing with my mother and two older brothers at the Rutherford place on the Malheur river flat, about a mile northwest of Ontario. One evening a stiff breeze started blowing from the northwest. There were two or three inches of snow on the ground. Will Pritchett, a friend about my own age, was living at the home of his brother-in-law, Tom Lee. The Lee homestead joined the Rutherford homestead on the west. Billy Pritchett called at our home and joyously told us the snow would soon be gone as a chinook wind was blowing up from the Columbia. As all Oregonians know, a chinook wind causes snow to melt faster than either sun or rain. This was my second winter in Oregon and I had never experienced a chinook. I retired that night with the expectation

of seeing the ground completely bare in the morning. The wind grew stronger during the night and steadily increased in velocity for two days. Instead of a chinook it was the fiercest blizzard that I ever experienced.

The Snake river was up some at the time it froze over and the ice saged toward the center as the river went down, leaving the ice higher at the edges than in the middle of the stream. W. J. Mink was one of those who crossed the river on the ice with team and wagon, moving his family from the Idaho to the Oregon side. Charles C. Carter was another who crossed on the ice with team and wagon. My sister, Mrs. Susan Draper, who was residing at the Henoty place on the Idaho side, walked across the river.

As in three previous severe cold winters the loss of livestock was heavier than in normal winters. Although the weather was not as cold as the severe winter of 1880-81, there was considerable more stock on the range. Commenting on the winter of 1887-88, J. D. Fairmin, a pioneer and former county commissioner, wrote in a published statement:

"Miller & Lux lost 90 per cent of their cattle. Eighteen hundred head of of range cattle died on Big Hog creek, above the Harper, while men were trying to get them down to the Harper ranch for feed and shelter. Three thousand head of cattle had been turned out in the spring (1887) between the middle and south forks of the Malheur. When rounded up the following spring there were less than three hundred head. Dead cattle were stacked in such heaps above Vale that citizens of the town were going to start suit against cattlemen, fearing disease as a result of the carcuses. Besides Miller & Lux, Todhunter & Divine, French-Glenn, Thomas Davidson, of the Star ranch; Ed Stauffer, of the Circle Bar; Charles Peterson and Vene Venator suffered heavy losses. Some of the smaller cattle men were completely wiped out."

About this time farmers began raising more alfalfa hay, and as hay prices were quite reasonable, stockmen drove their stock to feed yards before snowfall and thereafter suffered few losses from winter storms. The next cold winter was that of 1937, when the Snake river partially froze over. A jam was caused when the ice pack on the east side of the river, opposite the Ontario municipal pumping plant, broke up about 7:30 on the morning of February 8. In a short time the water level fell about 18 inches and all danger from the gorge soon passed. About 11:30 a.m. the last of the big floe reached the inter-state highway bridge. As it hit the bridge the entire structure shook momentarily. The pack gradually split up and passed under the bridge. The floes reached the railroad bridge north of town and packed against the piers until the afternoon of the next day when the ice below broke up and the entire river in the vicinity of Ontario was soon clear of ice. Another jam near Weiser went out without causing any serious damage.

The coldest winter of recent years was that of 1949. This was the severest winter of record throughout most of the Western and Pacific Coast states. When deep snow blocked traffic along highways and railways throughout the entire section. Many snowed-in tourists died from cold and exposure. The loss of range stock was great and would have been much

greater had not bailed hay been transported by airplane to bands of starving stock stranded in deep snow.

The coldest temperature reported in Malheur county was in Antelope valley in January, when mercury dropped to 40 degrees below zero. Ironside reported 24 degrees below. The coldest morning in Ontario, according to *The Argus-Observer*, was January 25, which registered 21 degrees below. A twelve-hour blizzard on February 6, piled snowdrifts as high as six feet in places along the highway between Ontario and Vale. Two National Guard airplanes, sent by Governor McKay at the urgent request of County Judge Troxell, flew feed to isolated livestock in the snowbound interior. Judge Troxell, Ralph Crane, Ontario airport manager, and Mrs. Helen Tiffin accompanied the plane pilots on several trips to direct them to the snowed-in bands of the famishing stock. Mrs. Tiffin, wife of a prominent stockman, Buck Tiffin, had driven in by auto sixty miles from the interior through heavy snow drifts to obtain emergency help for the stock. Water mains were frozen in the cities and pavements on public highways were badly damaged by the winter freeze and by water from melting snow in the spring, requiring a great deal of repair work on roads and bridges.

CHAPTER 15

SOME OF THE PIONEER CITIZENS

*"As one who cons at evening o'er an album, all alone,
And muses on the faces of the friends that he has known."*

—James Witcomb Riley.

This is a chapter of brief biographical sketches of some of my old-time friends and acquaintances who came to Malheur county some years before my arrival in 1886. As in the tenth chapter, under the caption of "Some of the First Malheur County Pioneers," I have endeavored to arrange the biographies in the order in which the pioneers settled in the county. By a careful perusal of these sketches the reader can easily trace the family ties both by blood and marriage relations of some of these pioneer families down to the present generation. A few of those still living were here during the Indian war of 1878, although too young to take part in the war. But most of those I mention came in the early Eighties.

FREDRICK GILLERMAN, a native of Germany, was born at Han-

over on September 4, 1839. His parents were Barnard and Anna Gillerman. He was educated in Germany and there learned the blacksmith trade. In 1858, at the age of nineteen, he set sail for America. Landing in Castle Garden he traveled west to Green county, Iowa, where he engaged in blacksmithing and farming. On December 4, 1862, Fred Gillerman and Miss Hannah Drodge, daughter of Henry and Mary Drodge, were married. She was also a native of Germany, having been born in Berlin on July 12, 1844. In the spring of 1863 the newly married couple crossed the plains and settled near Battle mountain in Lander county, Nevada. At that time their nearest neighbor lived eleven miles away. Mr. Gillerman followed farming, stock raising and mining until 1879, when he sold out and came north, locating in this county on lower Willow creek. Later he purchased raw land three miles west of Vale, which he improved and converted into a substantial farm home and again engaged in farming and stock raising. Seven daughters were born to the Gillermans. They were: Amelia M., Lillie B., Alice, Hattie, Matilda P., Vidella, and Lavina. Amelia married Frank Scott, Lillie became the wife of I. W. Hope, Alice wed John Pederson, Jr., Hattie married L. B. Teter, Matilda married Fred Zutz, and Vidella married Lou Jones. After L. B. Teter's death in Ontario his widow, Hattie, married D. C. Booth in 1928. They are both deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gillerman died at their old home place near Vale.

WILLIAM J. SCOTT was born in Angels Camp, California, December 23, 1852. He was the eldest son of Oscar F. and Elizabeth Logan Scott, who had come to California from Green county, Illinois, by ox team. In 1857, the family went to Healdsburg, California, and the next year to Mendocino county, where the father engaged in farming. At the latter place on September 3, 1874, W. J. Scott and Miss Idella Titus, a native of Kansas, were united in marriage. In 1878, the Scotts came to lower Willow creek where Mr. Scott took up a homestead near Dell and engaged in farming and stock raising. He later increased his land holdings to 200 acres and in 1881 planted the first alfalfa on Willow creek. In 1888, the family moved to Ontario to take charge of the Railroad hotel, succeeding his father, who was in ill health and retired. Later William retired from the hotel business and returned to his Willow creek farm to again engage in farming and stock raising. The Scotts were the parents of six children. The first child, Mary E., died young. The second daughter, Florence, became the wife of B. Jones and later married Mr. Lundstrum. The four sons were Fredrick F., Winfield W., Harry H., and Russell. Mrs. Scott was called by death on August 12, 1893. On January 12, 1896, Mr. Scott married Mrs. Nancy Murphy. Scott was postmaster of Dell for a number of years, and was elected county commissioner on the republican ticket. He died several years ago.

Winfield W. Scott, still resides in the vicinity of Willow creek postoffice.

In 1949, he was president of the *Malheur County Stock Growers Association*. Fred F. Scott and his sister, Flossie, are residents of Payette, and the youngest brother, Russell Scott, makes his home in Vale.

THOMAS J. BROSNAN, for many years one of the most prominent of Malheur county stockmen, was born in County Kerry, Ireland, November 22, 1861. In 1879, at the age of eighteen, he came direct from the Emerald Isle to Malheur county to join his uncle, Thomas D. Brosnan, one of the early stockmen of lower Willow creek. In 1886, at Caldwell, Idaho, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Brinnon, daughter of George W. and Nancy Smith Brinnon. The bride is a native of Emmett, Idaho. Five children were born to the Brosnans: John, a prominent stockman and farmer, residing near the inter-state highway bridge east of Ontario; George and Maud, both deceased; Joe, who still resides on the Brosnan stock farm on Willow creek; Ella, the wife of Vern Zutz, now residing in Vancouver, Washington.

About 1906, T. J. Brosnan acquired the large Brinnon stock farm near the mouth of the Malheur river from his father-in-law. He built a substantial farm house on the south side of the Malheur where the family made their home for the next fifteen years. In 1921, he sold the place to Otis Thayer and it has since been known as the Thayer place. Upon disposing of the George Brinnon ranch, Tom Brosnan purchased the Butterfield stock ranch about four miles north of Weiser. Here he resided for the next ten years, until his sudden death from a heart attack August 20, 1931, at the age of seventy years. Funeral services took place from the family residence and he was laid to rest by the side of his son and daughter in the Ontario Evergreen cemetery. Mrs. Brosnan makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Zutz, in Vancouver.

MRS. SUSAN M. MORTON, widow of L. M. Morton, has been a continuous resident of the Ontario vicinity for the past sixty-six years, with the exception of a brief period when she resided at Horseshoe Bend, Idaho. She was born at Springfield, Missouri, December 14, 1869, the second daughter of Alexander and Eliza Darr. Both Mr. and Mrs. Darr were natives of Russell county, Virginia. The date of Mr. Darr's birth was June 5, 1838. Mrs. Darr was born May 25, 1846. Soon after their marriage in their native state they removed to southwest Missouri in 1866. When Susie Mary Darr was only thirteen years old she crossed the plains with her parents from Missouri to Utah. The same year they came by covered wagon to Oregon and Alex Darr located on a homestead on the Malheur river flat.

Alex Darr's brother, Jesse and his family, and George W. Long, came West in the same wagon train. The Jesse Darrs had several sons and a daughter. The daughter, Martha, married James H. Farley in Weiser at the time her father was operating Olds ferry. J. H. Farley later engaged in business in Ontario and built the Farley rooming house. G. W. Long married Eliza Darr. They located on a homestead about a mile west of the

Darr place. Mr. Long later conducted the Carter livery barn and then a clothing store in Ontario.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Darr were the parents of five children. Their son, George A. Darr, now resides near Unity, Oregon. His wife is the former Daisy Betterly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Betterly, pioneers of the Owyhee vicinity. The two younger daughters, Nettie and May Darr, married brothers, Ed and John Fresh, after which they made their homes in Baker City where they both died many years ago. Alex Darr died at his homestead near Ontario, February 26, 1899. His wife died in Ontario August 18, 1906.

Miss Susie M. Darr married Len M. Morton in June, 1886. She is the mother of ten children: Murray, of Ontario; Carl, of Weiser; Mrs. May Beaty, of Oakland, California; Estes, of Salem, Oregon; Fred, of Nyssa; Archie, of Winnemucca, Nevada; Mrs. Bessie Roberts, deceased; Mrs. Ollie Kruger, of Grants Pass, Oregon; Mrs. Agnes Christena Herron and Miss Velma Lucile Morton, of Ontario.

WILLIAM RUFUS KING was born near Walla Walla, Washington, October 3, 1864. He was the only son of David Rufus and Elizabeth Estes King, who were also the parents of Laura E. King. She became the wife of J. M. Dinwiddie, a prominent pioneer stockman of Jordan valley. The father, David R. King, was captain of a large wagon train that crossed the plains from Arkansas in 1860. When Will R. was nine years old his parents moved to Weston, Oregon, and four years latter, in the spring of 1878, they located in Jordan valley. After attending the common schools he entered the State Agricultural College at Corvallis, which he attended three years, and then returned to the Jordan valley farm. In 1889 he went to Danville, Indiana, to attend law school, from which he graduated with high honors in 1891. The same year he was admitted to the Indiana bar and entered a law office. A few months later he returned to Malheur county and opened a law office in Vale. On December 6, 1892, Will R. King and Miss L. Myrtle King (no relation) of Danville, Indiana, were united in marriage at that place. To this marriage two children were born, Eldon P., and Myrtle M. In 1893, Mr. King was elected state representative from Malheur county. In 1893, he located in Baker City and formed a law partnership with his brother-in-law, F. M. Saxton, who had married Mrs. King's sister. In 1894, Mr. King was elected state senator for Malheur and Baker counties. During his two terms in the legislature, totaling six years, he introduced and sponsored a number of important measures that became laws and became an outstanding leader of the reform forces in Oregon. At the close of his term of state senator he was nominated by the fusion forces of the democrats, populists and silver republicans for governor in 1898. Although defeated he ran considerable ahead of his ticket. In 1899, he re-

turned to Malheur county and opened a law office in Ontario where he later became associated with W. H. Brooke.

In 1907, W. R. King was appointed a member of the state supreme court by Governor George E. Chamberlain, which office he held until 1911. In the state-wide primary of 1912, Judge King was elected to the democratic national convention at Baltimore, Maryland, pledged to vote for Woodrow Wilson for president. He was chosen national committeeman from Oregon for a four-year term and was chosen by Wilson as one of a committee of eight to head Wilson campaign managers with headquarters in Chicago. Judge King was assigned the management of the Pacific and Inter-Mountain states, all of which, with the exception of Utah, were carried by Wilson. In 1913, Judge King was appointed by President Wilson, chief counsel and a commissioner of the U. S. Reclamation Service. One of Judge King's great ambitions was to secure government aid for the building of the Owyhee irrigation project, but this was not accomplished until after King's death. In 1924, Judge King was a candidate for U. S. Senator, but was defeated in the primary.

Judge Will R. King was one of the most prominent men of Malheur county in his day and became a distinguished figure in the state and the nation. He was a descendant of the prominent American statesman, Rufus King.

MRS. LOUISA E. JONES, for years the oldest pioneer citizen in Ontario and Malheur county, in point of age, died at her home April 2, 1947, at the age of 100 years, two months and twenty days. Louisa E. Lockett was born in Henderson county, Kentucky, January 18, 1847. In 1864, at the close of the Civil War, when seventeen, she was married to Joseph S. Jones. In the spring of 1881, with her husband and their six oldest children, Tom, Bob, Rosa, Kate, Julia, and Hickman, she came by train from Henderson to Kelton, Utah. There were twenty persons in this group, including Mrs. Jones' sister, Pattie and her husband, A. J. Eblen, with their children and others. At Kelton they were met by the Honorable R. A. Lockett, brother of the two sisters, who with teams and wagons conveyed them to his home on lower Willow creek. They were one month making the journey from their "Old Kentucky Home." The Jones family first resided on what was known as the Thomson place near Dell. At that time the store at Glennville was the nearest trading place. Later they located on Gum creek and engaged in raising sheep. The three youngest of the Jones children, Jeffie, Paul and Joe, are natives of Malheur county. The family moved to Vale in 1888 and in 1890 to Ontario. The youngest child, Joe, died in Ontario in 1892, a victim of diphtheria, the first epidemic to visit the city and county. Mrs. Jones conducted the Neathery Hotel for six months in the winter of 1894-95, at the time of the first boom in the town, when David Wilson constructed many new buildings, includ-

ing some of the first brick blocks. Most of the men Wilson employed were guests at the Neathery hotel. At that time the two wooden railroad bridges across the Snake river, north of town, were being replaced by steel bridges.

J. S. Jones, her husband, passed away in 1913. Their eldest daughter, Mrs. Roselee Jones Test, wife of E. H. Test, died August 21, 1934. The second son, Robert, died at the home of his mother March 7, 1944. The second daughter, Kate, widow of the late John F. Weaver, a former county commissioner, died at her mother's home, January 26, 1946. Jeffie, widow of Ben J. Brown, a former sheriff of the county, died in Portland, July 30, 1946. Hickman died in Ontario March 23, 1947, just eleven days before the death of his mother. Grieving over the passing of four of her children within a brief period of about two years, hastened the death of the aged mother. Of her nine children only three survive. They are Ontario's popular justice of the peace, Thomas Jones; a government irrigation engineer, Paul Jones, of Montana; and Julia, widow of the late S. P. Newman, residing in San Francisco.

After his graduation from the Oregon Agricultural College, Civil Engineer Paul Jones was elected county surveyor and later was with the state highway department for a year, since which time he has been a U. S. Government engineer with the Reclamation Department. He took part in the preliminary survey of Boulder Dam and other major government reclamation projects.

Louisa Jones was chosen queen of the *Malheur Pioneer Association* at the annual meeting in Vale in 1943. "Granny Jones," the name bestowed on this lovable pioneer mother by her son-in-law, the late Honorable E. H. Test, was a devoted life-long member of the Baptist church. She was the one most instrumental organizing the membership and promoting the building of the First Baptist Church in Ontario. The first meeting of the members, at which organization was perfected, was held in her home and services were also held there until the church was completed. By her untiring efforts funds were raised to purchase pews in Portland to replace the wooden benches first used.

As evidence of the great esteem in which this pioneer lady was held by her numerous friends, that included everyone who knew her, the 100th anniversary of her birth, Saturday, January 18, 1947, was proclaimed "Granny Jones Day." A proclamation by the mayor of the city requested "all citizens to observe this day of respect to a noble pioneer woman in fitting and proper manner."

Honoring the occasion, open house was held at the Woman's Club House, at which "Granny Jones" was crowned "Queen for a Day" by Mayor Elmo Smith. Many tributes were paid to the honored guest for her exemplification of the pioneer spirit, friendliness and influence for good in the community. A highlight of the occasion was an interview with her in

which Mrs. Jones spoke over the radio—an instrument of which the invention was undreamed of in her girlhood. Her pastor, Rev. C. D. Honeyford, gave an outline of her life in which he eulogized the aged lady's major role in establishing the first Baptist church in the city. A musical feature was "My Old Kentucky Home," whistled by Mrs. V. B. Staples and sung by a quartette. Mrs. Staples, a relative by marriage, whose husband is Mrs. Jones' second cousin, was general chairman of the occasion, at which standing room was at a premium. Out-of-town guests came from Twin Falls, Boise, Vale and Nyssa, among whom was Mrs. Cathie Newman Griffin, widow of Mrs. Jones' nephew, Robert Lockett Griffin, deceased. Rev. C. L. Callahan read a poem composed by Mrs. Lela Oxman, entitled "To My Granny Jones." Another original poem "To Dear Grannie Jones," was read by the author, Mrs. Lillian Evans. Birthday cakes were provided by Mrs. Cheley Boyer, Mrs. Dean Goodman, Mrs. Lillian Evans and two of Mrs. Jones' granddaughters, Mrs. Pauline Rice and Mrs. Marjorie Peterson, of Portland, daughters of the late Mrs. Jeffie Brown. Those serving the guests were Mrs. Joe Staples, Mrs. Everett Staples, Mrs. Earl Weaver, Mrs. W. J. Weese, Mrs. C. F. Trow.

Five generations of the family were present. They were "Granny Jones;" her eldest son, Judge Thomas Jones; his eldest daughter, Mrs. Lela Jones Oxman; her son, Thomas Oxman and his eighteen-months-old son, "Kip" Oxman. Judge Tom Jones delivered an expression of appreciation by the Jones family for the splendid birthday reception to his mother. She was the recipient of many gifts of friendship and remembrance, in which civic and service clubs participated.

Less than three months after her centennial birthday celebration the numerous friends of this highly honored centennarian were mourning her death. For nearly sixty-six years she had resided in Oregon, coming to the Willow creek locality six years before Malheur county was created and for the past fifty-seven years before her death had resided in Ontario.

THOMAS JONES, who for the past seventeen years has proficiently filled the office of Justice of the Peace for Ontario, was born near Henderson, Kentucky, in 1865, the son of Joseph S. and Louisa Lockett Jones. In 1881, when sixteen years of age, he came west with his parents. Tom rode the range for some time for his "Uncle Bob" Lockett and in 1882, he helped roundup and herd range cattle, on the ground where the city of Ontario was later founded.

When Malheur county was created in 1887, Tom became deputy county clerk under E. H. Test and resided in Vale for the next six years. In 1900, Mr. Jones made a visit to his old Kentucky home. On November 27, 1900, near Henderson, Kentucky, he was married to his boyhood sweetheart, Miss Estella Staples, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Staples. Following the wedding Mr. Jones brought his bride to Vale. They are the parents of two

daughters, Mrs. Lela Oxman, widow of the late Frank C. Oxman; and Maurine, wife of Lieutenant G. K. Griffith, who served in World War II. Mrs. Oxman's son, Tom Oxman, also saw service in World War II.

In 1894, Tom Jones, a democrat, was appointed registrar of the Burns land office by President Cleveland for a term of four years and moved with his family to Burns. At the close of his term he organized the banking firm of Jones & Biggs, with John W. Biggs, the prominent Burns attorney, as his partner. Mr. Biggs is a brother of former Circuit Judge Dalton Biggs, deceased, and the present incumbent of that office, Judge M. A. Biggs, of Ontario. After two years in the banking business and six years residence in Burns, Mr. Jones came to Ontario to become bookkeeper and assistant manager of the Oregon Forwarding Co. After one year residence in Ontario, he went to Boise where he was associated with the New York Life Insurance Co. Later he purchased a half interest in the Parsons Drug Co., of that city. Following six years residence in Boise he returned to this county and for a time engaged in farming and stock raising. He again located in Vale and became owner of the Malheur Abstract Company. In 1914, he was appointed registrar of the Vale land office by President Wilson and served two terms. In 1923, he again became a resident of Ontario. Upon the death of Judge G. L. King in 1932, Jones succeeded King as secretary of the Owyhee Ditch Company, and was elected Justice of the Peace, succeeding the late Judge King. Judge Jones, like his predecessor, had studied law, so Ontario during the past thirty-seven years has been exceptionally favored by having two well-qualified justices to fill that important post. This was fully revealed in 1940, when the state inspector who examined the books of the office pronounced them the neatest and most accurate set of books of any justice of the peace in the entire state.

While residing in Burns, from 1894 to 1900, Tom owned a splendid span of buggy horses of which he was very proud. With this team hitched to his buggy he could make the trip from Burns to Ontario in three days, which was a record. He would spend the first night at Drewsey and the second night in Westfall.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at a family reunion in their Ontario home Sunday, November 20, 1940. Judge Jones, now eighty-four years of age, attends to the office of Justice of the Peace and the highly honored and respected Ontario patriarch is remarkably spry for a man of his age.

JAMES R. BLACKABY was born in Milton, Iowa, April 12, 1861, the son of Bernard and Emiline Blackaby. He grew to manhood in his native state and received his preliminary education in the Milton schools, after which he attended college in Keokuk. After graduating he came West that year by train to Winnemucca, Nevada, and from there by stage to the Jordan valley in 1880. The first job the twenty-year-old James Row-

ley Blackaby got upon his arrival in Oregon was driving an eight-horse team and wagon hauling hay from the valley to Silver City. For a time he followed the life of a cowboy and milked cows with J. N. Fell on a dairy ranch. Jim Fell later served as the second sheriff of Malheur county. Mr. Blackaby taught school for three years in Jordan valley and served four years as a deputy county clerk for the locality under County Clerk E. H. Test. At that time, because of the distance from the county seat, it was decided to have a deputy county clerk in Jordan valley for the accommodation of citizens residing in the southern part of the county.

In 1891, Mr. Blackaby organized and conducted the J. R. Blackaby Mercantile Company. At the time he was head of this mercantile firm he served four years as postmaster of Jordan valley, having been appointed by President Grover Cleveland. In 1898, he received the democratic nomination and was elected representative to the Oregon legislature from Malheur county. In 1899 he became a resident of Ontario, and with Stephen Carver, a recent arrival from Nebraska, organized the Bank of Ontario and was named vice-president. Later the bank was made a national bank and Mr. Blackaby served as president from 1901 to 1921. He was also one of the organizers of the Bank of Jordan Valley and the Bank of Homedale, Idaho. He organized the Homedale Forwarding Company, of which his eldest son, Otto Blackaby, is now manager. He was one of the organizers of the Malheur Valley Railroad Company that built the railroad from Ontario to Vale and on through Malheur canyon, and was chosen vice-president and a director. He was also instrumental in obtaining aid for the Owyhee and Vale government irrigation projects and made trips to Washington, D.C., for that purpose. Mr. Blackaby took a prominent part in politics and for years was chairman of the democratic central committee of the county.

On October 11, 1888, while on a visit to his former Iowa home, J. R. Blackaby was united in marriage to Miss Mary J. Bauch. To them were born five sons: Otto C., Earl, Larue (deceased), William, and Jay, (deceased). Mrs. Blackaby died at a hospital in Baker City in 1898. In 1899, Mr. Blackaby and Miss Ethel Currey of Baker City, were joined in wedlock. To them was born a daughter, now Mrs. Ethel Horner, who resides with her husband in Boston, Massachusetts. Mrs. Ethel Blackaby died in Ontario in 1908. In 1910, Mr. Blackaby and Miss Nellie Platt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Platt, were united in marriage. After a brief illness death claimed J. R. Blackaby in Long Beach, California, March 16, 1942, where, with his wife, he had been spending the winter. His remains were brought back to Ontario, where services were held at the Peterson funeral chapel March 20. Interment was in the Ontario cemetery.

EARL BLACKABY, a native son of Malheur county, was born in Jordan Valley, July 30, 1893. When he was six years old the family came to Ontario where Earl has since made his home. After attending the Ontario

schools he graduated from the University of Oregon in Eugene. At the university he met Miss Bertha Kincaid, another student, who later became his wife. After his graduation, Mr. Blackaby was employed as clerk and later cashier of the Ontario National Bank. When the bank was purchased by Boise capitalists he engaged in the insurance business and at present owns the oldest and largest insurance business in the county. Earl is secretary-treasurer and manager of the First Mortgage Savings and Loan Association of Ontario. He also takes a leading part in public activities. For the past twenty-three years he has filled the position of city treasurer of Ontario, being successively re-elected without opposition. He has also been clerk of the school board of District No. 8 for many years, and is a director and treasurer of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

Earl Blackaby and Miss Bertha Kincaid were married at the bride's birthplace, Ashland, August 7, 1916. Her parents are W. R. and Ophelia Kincaid, of that city. The Blackabys are the parents of two sons, William Earl Blackaby, employed in his father's office; and James R. Blackaby, Jr., of Palo Alto, California. William's wife is the former Mary Gail Goodman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Goodman, and can trace her ancestry to the prominent Lockett family. Her mother, Mrs. Mattie Mosley Goodman, is the second daughter of Mrs. John U. Hoffman, of Juntura; both natives of Kentucky. Mrs. Hoffman is a niece of the late Robert A. Lockett and Mrs. Louisa E. Jones. Her deceased husband, John U. Hoffman, for many years a leading sheepman of Juntura, was a native of Switzerland.

DEAN GOODMAN was born at Walla Walla, Washington, August 3, 1887. He spent his boyhood on the Hudson Bay ranch on the Oregon-Washington state line. He was owner of this historic site at the time he came to Juntura in 1914, to continue in the stock business. In Vale, on February 23, 1915, Dean Goodman was married to Miss Mattie Mosley, also of Juntura. Goodman and his wife made their home on their Juntura stock farm until 1940 when ill health forced his retirement and with his wife he thereafter made his home in Ontario, until his sudden death from a heart attack, April 12, 1948, at the age of 60. The Goodmans were the parents of two daughters, Irene, wife of Drexel Williams, now owner of the Goodman ranch at Juntura; and Mary Gail, wife of William Blackaby, of Ontario.

JAMES A. LACKEY was born near Lexington, Virginia, May 22, 1858. His parents were Anderson and Elizabeth Miller Lackey. He remained with his parents on the Virginia farm until he was seventeen and then went to Kern county, California, where he mined for a while and then engaged in raising stock. Mr. Lackey came to Oregon in 1880, locating at The Dalles and from there came to Malheur county to join his older brother, John F. Lackey, who was superintendent of the Oregon Horse & Land Company. For a time he was foreman of that company in the vicinity of Ironside. About 1890 he succeeded his brother, John, as superintendent.

This firm generally known as the NG Company, at that time was said to be the largest horse company in the United States, had more than 15,000 range horses in Eastern Oregon and Idaho. Before the railroad reached the Snake river valley, Jim Lackey purchased horses as far north as Northern Idaho and south in Nevada. He drove horses to market over the trail to stations on the Union Pacific as the railroad was building west from Omaha, to be shipped farther east. He purchased horses from the Indians and had some thrilling experiences with the aborigines. At one time on the Nez Perce reservation, near Lewiston, after paying Indians for horses he had bought, they spent the money and then insisted Lackey should give them back their horses. In a long parley he finally persuaded them to change their minds. At another time in Eastern Idaho, through timely warning of a friendly Indian, he narrowly escaped attack by Blackfeet.

On April 7, 1885, at Malheur City, J. A. Lackey and Miss Addie M. Locey, daughter of Cyrus T. and Maria Locey, were joined in the holy bonds of matrimony. To this union were born five children, Mamie, who died in infancy; Chester T.; Hazel C., wedded to James Smith, now residing in California; James Russell; and a younger daughter. Their son, Chester T. Lackey, who was the first graduate of the Ontario high school, is a prominent contractor of Ontario and Bend.

In 1890, J. A. Lackey sold his holdings at Ironsides and went to Seattle, purchasing land on Puget Sound. In 1892, he returned to this county to superintend the NG Company and establish headquarters in Ontario. Mr. Lackey took a great deal of interest in educational matters and for nine years served as clerk of the Ontario school board. During his services on the school board the Ontario high school was established. Mr. Lackey built the two-story brick building that housed the First National Bank and the Masonic lodge. He served as a member of the city council and was elected the fourth mayor of Ontario, serving two terms, from 1905 to 1909. In his second campaign for mayor he was opposed by Will R. King in the hottest and closest contest ever held for that office. The result was not determined until the official count. During Mr. Lackey's first term as mayor the first sanitary sewer was built and the first electric lighting and water system were installed. In 1915, Jim Lackey was selected as one of the commissioners to the Panama-Pacific Exposition at San Francisco. He served as one of the three commissioners who supervised the building of the first highway bridge across the Snake river, located a mile east of Ontario. The other two commissioners were E. A. Fraser and H. C. Boyer. Mr. Lackey, a democrat, was elected to represent Malheur county in the lower house of the Oregon legislature in 1922. Jim Lackey was a prominent Mason and was one of the most public spirited citizens in the county. He took a leading part in the organization of the Malheur county fair and was the first president of the fair association. As president he personally supervised the construc-

tion of the fair buildings, and the splendid half-mile circle track and grandstand. He diligently devoted his time and service to this work without asking or accepting compensation. Mr. Lackey died at Holy Rosary hospital on December 27, 1930, where he had undergone a surgical operation, at the age of seventy-two years. Funeral services were held at the Masonic hall, Monday, December 29. Interment was in the Ontario cemetery.

CHARLES W. MALLETT, a native of Maine, traveled by sea to California in 1875, and went from there to Nevada. At Dayton, Nevada, on October 6, 1878, Mallett and Miss Barrett, were united in marriage. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Barrett, who had come to California in the days of '49. She was born in California on June 16, 1856. When she was seven years old her parents moved to Virginia City, Nevada. The Malletts were the parents of the following children: Albert, Pansy, Harold, Stanley, Howard, Isabella, Lena, and Mary. In 1881, C. W. Mallett, with his personal friend, C. H. Brown, and others came to the lower Malheur valley and located at what in later years became known as the White Settlement, being the first to settle in that locality. These settlers, all from Nevada, were known as the Nevada colony. Others besides Mallett and Brown, were I. H. Adams, T. W. Halliday, J. H. Chandler, William Lee, J. A. Walter and his brother-in-law, Cam Arnold. Mallett and Brown located homesteads about half-way between Ontario and Vale, before either of the two towns were located. The Stone House was the only building at the present site of Vale, and Glennville on lower Willow creek was the nearest post-office. Messrs. Mallett and Brown built a dugout in which they lived during the winter of 1881-82 while working on the Nevada irrigation ditch, which also took its name from the colony. They built the first three miles of this irrigation canal with picks and shovels, and by sluicing the ditch with water from the Malheur river. On account of a scarcity of horse feed they had pastured their horses some distance away. Mr. Mallett and Mr. Brown took turn about once a week to walk a distance of sixteen miles to Glennville for the mail. In the spring Mr. Mallett returned to Mason valley, Nevada, and brought his family to their new home in the Malheur valley in the fall of 1882. They made the trip in a four-horse stage coach, or "carry-all," which Mr. Mallett purchased. This coach had seen service on the stage line between Placerville, California, and Carson City, Nevada, in the booming mining days. It required five weeks for them to make the journey from Nevada to their new home, a distance of about 500 miles. While Mr. Mallett was on the trip to Nevada to bring his family, Mr. Brown built a house which was ready for them upon their arrival. The lumber for this building was hauled from Emmettville.

By the time the water in the Nevada ditch reached the Mallett and Brown ranches they had the sage brush cleared away and the land was soon planted to alfalfa and grain. These two farmers were so closely associated

in farming and business dealings in the early days that their two farms were generally referred to as the Mallett and Brown ranch. With a large grove of beautiful shade trees set out around their two dwellings, situated close together, the places became two of the most attractive farms in the county. Mr. Mallett served a term as county commissioner, having been elected to that office on the democratic ticket. He died at his farm home in 1923.

CASSIUS M. BROWN was born in a log cabin at Mount Hope, Illinois, December 27, 1852. His parents were George W. and Eleanor Kenyon Brown. He resided in Illinois and Iowa until he was twenty-one years old. In February, 1873, he went to Plumas county, California, where he followed farming and was employed as a stage driver for a time. In 1879, he went to Reno, where he clerked in a store and then joined a U. S. government surveying party. He returned to Nevada in 1880 and the following year came with C. W. Mallett and others to the lower Malheur valley. Mr. Brown became the owner of 240 acres of fine farming land, eight miles west of Ontario, which was well irrigated and improved. He had large alfalfa and grain fields, which produced abundant crops, and also owned a fine twenty-acre orchard, which produced various kinds of fruit. His was the first orchard planted in the lower Malheur valley. His residence was surrounded by a beautiful grove of ornamental and shade trees. His place was joined on the west by the equally well-improved and well kept hay and grain ranch of C. W. Mallett. These two prominent early day farmers were also interested with Hope Bros. in the Vale Milling Company. They were closely associated in all business dealings, except politics. Brown was a staunch republican and Mallett an ardent democrat, but this in no way interfered in their friendship and business dealings. They were both Masons of long standing and were charter members of Acacia Lodge, No. 118, of Ontario. Mr. Brown was the first master of the lodge and served two terms. He was also a charter member of Eastern Star Chapter No. 69, of Ontario, and was the first worthy patron. In 1892, Mr. Brown was elected county judge, being the first republican elected to that office in the county. He was chairman of the republican county convention in 1896, 1898 and 1900. In 1898 and 1900 he was elected delegate to the state convention and also chosen a member of the state central committee. Judge Brown never married. He spent the remaining years of his life at the Masonic Home at Forest Grove. He died there in February, 1938.

THOMAS W. HALLIDAY was born in Ohio. When a boy he traveled overland with his parents to California. His father died in that state. With his widowed mother, Mrs. Jane Halliday, he went to Nevada. On September 15, 1880, T. W. Halliday and Miss Hannah Emma Ferguson were married in Carson City. The bride was born in Iowa, April 25, 1862. When she was only a few weeks old her parents started across the plains for Cali-

fornia in an ox-drawn covered wagon. After residing in California for several years the family moved to Carson Sink, Nevada. In 1882, T. W. Halliday, with his wife and his mother, Mrs. Jane Halliday, and J. H. Chandler, came to this county. Mr. Halliday took up a homestead on the Malheur river, six miles east of Vale, at a place now known as the Halliday bridge. Mr. Chandler took a claim adjoining the Halliday homestead on the west. The Ontario-Burns mail stage route passed along the south line of the Halliday ranch and then turned north at the southwest corner to the Malheur river bridge. Mr. Chandler kept a stage station where the drivers changed horses on the first ten miles out from Ontario.

Having no children of their own the Hallidays adopted two children at the time they were residing on the ranch—a boy and a girl. T. W. Halliday died in Vale on October 16, 1916. On April 4, 1920, Mrs. Emma Halliday married G. W. Clevenger. Mr. Clevenger died in Vale in 1938. The widow died there August 26, 1943. Halliday, Clevenger and the widow are buried in the Ontario Evergreen cemetery.

Walt Clevenger, a carpenter, was among the first dwellers in Ontario and supervised the building of the Railroad Hotel. Later at different times he conducted furniture stores and undertaking parlors in Ontario, Burns and Vale.

ISAAC H. ADAMS, known as "White Horse Adams," because in early Nevada days, he drove an all-white horse team of two or three span. Mr. Adams, a native of Maine, came to California by sea in the early gold rush days. Later he went to Nevada where he freighted to the mines. Mrs. Adams was teaching school in Nevada at the time they were married. With his wife and only son, Ernest, he came to what is now called "The White Settlement," in 1882, and located one of the first four homes in that locality. He acquired a large tract of land just south of the Halliday and Chandler places, utilizing his homestead, desert, preemption and timber claim rights and planted the largest alfalfa fields in the county. He formed a partnership with R. M. Steele, a prominent capitalist of that day, under the firm name of Steele & Adams, with Adams as superintendent. Mr. Adams timber claim was one of the first three timber claims in the county. One of the others was filed on by his neighbor, C. W. Mallett, and the other by Fred Gillerman in the Grove neighborhood above Vale. Steele & Adams ranged their stock in the vicinity of Ironside. After Mr. Adams' death most of the property was sold to the J. N. Stanfield Sheep Company and later became the property of the Butterfield Sheep Company.

In the fall and winter of 1901-92, during the Boer War in Africa, the British government established headquarters at the Steele & Adams ranch to purchase cavalry horses.

Ernest E. Adams inherited his father's estate and acquired considerable

nearly property. For more than sixty years he was one of the leading citizens of the White Settlement. He married Miss Alice Wann and they became the parents of two sons, Ernest E. Jr., and Hugh Adams. Mrs. Adams is a sister of Miss Myrtle Wann and the late Mrs. F. E. Brittingham, who for years conducted the Brittingham maternity home in Ontario. Mr. Adams died at the family home January 25, 1944, at the age of 74 years.

GEORGE W. BLANTON was born in Monroe county, Tennessee, October 28, 1832, the son of Vincent and Sarah Marshall Blanton. In 1840, when he was eight years old, the family moved to Morgan county, Kentucky. He attended school in the winter, walking four miles and back to a log school house, which had split logs for benches. In the summer he assisted his father with farm work. On April 25, 1853, G. W. Blanton was married to Miss Fanny J. Oliver. In 1856, they migrated to Coles county, Illinois, where Mr. Blanton engaged in farming until 1860, when they moved to Linn county, Kansas. In 1862, Mr. Blanton enlisted in Company C, Twelfth Kansas Infantry, and was soon made a first sergeant. His regiment was part of the Seventh Corps of the Western Division under General Steele. Mr. Blanton served his country for three years, during which time he took part in several fierce engagements. After the war he took his family to Johnson county, Kansas, near Kansas City, where he farmed and also served as a deputy sheriff.

Mr. and Mrs. Blanton were the parents of the following children: Frank, Sarah, James M., John W., Emma J., Ida, George, Dora, and Lena Belle Blanton. Three other of the children, Margaret, Georgana and Mary, died in childhood. In 1881, G. W. Blanton, with his family, except his eldest son, Frank, started across the plains in covered wagons drawn by mule teams, bound for the Willamette valley. The eldest daughter, Sarah, had married Seth H. Leavitt; one son, John W., had married Miss Emma Slaughter in Kansas. With their families they accompanied their parents. The roads were in better condition than in earlier days and they traveled faster with mule teams than with oxen. They arrived in Malheur valley in three months.

Mr. Blanton was induced by members of the Nevada colony, who had recently arrived from the Sagehen state, to settle in the valley and take an interest in the Nevada ditch, which at that time was under construction. He took up a homestead six miles west of where the town of Ontario was later located and purchased the interest of William Lee in the Nevada ditch. Lee returned to Nevada. S. E. Leavitt and J. W. Blanton took up claims nearer the Malheur butte. J. M. Blanton on a claim southwest of his father's homestead.

G. W. Blanton was the best equipped of any of the settlers under the Nevada ditch. He owned ten mule teams and was well supplied with cash. He put some of his teams to work on the ditch, which was extended to

cover his ranch. When the Nevada Ditch Company was incorporated in 1886, Mr. Blanton was elected first president of the company. He took a great deal of interest in public affairs. In 1898, he was elected county commissioner on the fusion ticket and re-elected in 1902 on the democratic ticket. He was a charter member of the Ontario Masonic lodge and the Grand Army of the Republic.

The second daughter, Emma J., married Alex Smith, now deceased. She resides in Ontario. J. M. Blanton, also deceased, never married. Ida married W. E. Hulery, an early-day Ontario businessman, who later engaged in farming in the vicinity. Both are deceased. Dora, also deceased, married Frank Herron. Belle Blanton married Thomas T. Redsull and resides with her husband in Ontario. George W. Blanton and his wife, Fanny, both deceased, rest in the Ontario Evergreen cemetery.

JOHN W. BLANTON, third son of G. W. Blanton, was born in Kansas in 1860. In that state he was married to Miss Emma Slaughter. With her father they accompanied the G. W. Blanton wagon train across the plains to this county. J. W. Blanton assisted his father on the extension of the Nevada ditch and for fifty years farmed the homestead he located near the base of the butte. He also engaged in stock raising, especially blooded race horses. His brother, J. M. Blanton, was the owner of Quick Silver, at one time holder of the quarter-mile record. Jim Blanton ran this famous stallion on many of the leading race tracks of the West and in Mexico. Some of Quicksilver's offspring owned by members of the Blanton family, still race on the track of the Malheur county fair ground.

John W. Blanton died following a stroke of paralysis October 6, 1931, at the age of seventy-one. His wife preceded him in death. They are survived by the following children: Leora, widow of the late Frank Davis. She resides in Ontario. Wesley, who still resides on the homestead with his wife, the former Gertrude Monts; Mrs. Effie Downs, of Ontario; Mrs. Ray Parsons, of Kuna, Idaho; Mrs. William Rose, of Grandview; Joe and Miss Lucile Blanton, of Ontario.

ANDREW H. MCGREGOR was born in Glasgow, Scotland, June 28, 1845, the son of Duncan and Margarette McIntire McGregor. When only a year old he came with his parents to the United States on a sailing vessel, after a six-week voyage. From New York the family went to Boston where the father worked at block printing and dying in a calico factory. In 1849, they moved to Oshkosh, Wisconsin. From there on August 14, 1862, at the age of seventeen, Andrew enlisted in Company K. Twentieth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. After being mustered into service at Camp Randall, he went to the barracks at St. Louis. "Mac" served under General Schofield in the 1st Brigade, Second Division, Army of the Frontier. He participated in the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, fought December 7, 1862, and in the third siege of Vicksburg, Tennessee, in 1863. He was also in

the battles of Yazoo, Atchafalga, Fort Morgan, Spanish Fork, and the siege of Mobile, Alabama. On July 14, 1865, he was honorably discharged at Galveston, Texas, after which he returned to his Wisconsin home where he followed logging and became an experienced timber man and log driver.

On July 3, 1869, A. H. McGregor and Miss Martha M. Davis were united in marriage. She was the daughter of James W. and Caroline Davis. In 1871, the McGregors migrated to Meeker county, Minnesota, where "Mac" continued lumbering and also engaged in farming. In 1877, he drove a team across the plains from Minnesota to Boise. Mrs. G. W. Lyells, then a small girl, came with her parents in the same wagon train. That year Mr. McGregor, as a volunteer under Colonel Green, aided in capturing some Indians on the Salmon river. In 1879, his wife and four children joined him. At one time Mr. McGregor owned the property where the Boise Natatorium was later built. In 1882, he brought his family to the Ontario vicinity. "Mac" filed a pre-emption claim about two miles northwest of Ontario. For fifty dollars he purchased a willow log cabin, with only a dirt floor, which the family occupied. This was before the railroad penetrated the valley and "Mac" was here to greet the first "iron horse" to arrive over the Oregon Short Lines. McGregor, a carpenter, worked on the first two buildings built in Ontario. In 1884, the McGregors moved to Payette and conducted a hotel there at the time the town was known as "Boomerang." He worked as a bridge carpenter for the O. R. & N. railroad company as far west as Pendleton. Afterward he worked as a lumberjack and log-driver for the Wardell Lumber Company, of Emmettville, and built boats to be used in log drives. In 1886, Mr. McGregor bought a large tract of land about eight miles west of Ontario, east of the C. H. Brown ranch, which he improved and for the next twenty years engaged in farming. After selling this farm he bought unimproved land about two miles southwest of Ontario, which he cleared and put under cultivation and built a new home. After the death of his wife in 1922, he retired from the farm. This well-known pioneer died at the Veteran's Hospital in Boise in the winter of 1931 at the age of 82. His remains were brought back to Ontario and laid to rest beside his wife in the Evergreen cemetery. Mr. McGregor was a member of A. P. Hovey Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and Armor Lodge No. 69, Knights of Pythias, of Ontario.

Mr. and Mrs. McGregor were the parents of ten children: the eldest, Isabella, married Holden T. Husted, a prominent merchant and postmaster of Ontario. They are both deceased. The Husteds were the parents of three children, Edith, Joy, and Viola. The second daughter, Minnie is the wife of Seymour H. Ross, of Ontario. S. H. Ross, a native of Coos county, was born in 1870, the son, of Isaac and Martha Ross. In 1881, he came with his parents, two brothers and three sisters, George, Mary, Daisy, Grace, and Charlie, to Agency valley, where the father intended to purchase land from

the government on the recently abandoned Indian reservation. Finding the choice land already purchased by the P. S. L. Co. and settlers, they came on to Bully creek, where Isaac Ross took up a homestead near Westfall. Seymour once told me that they followed just behind the last band of Indians that were being taken from the Malheur reservation to the Yakima reservation. In his younger days Seymour Ross rode the range and was foreman for JH and Star cattle companies. Mr. and Mrs. Ross are the parents of two children. The son, Harvey Ross, an expert electrician, and unmarried, resides with his parents in Ontario. He is a veteran of World War I. The daughter is Mrs. Ethel May Reimers. S. H. Ross and his sister, Mrs. Mary McGosh, of Ontario, are the only survivors of the six Isaac Ross children.

The other McGregor children are: Andrew, Robert, Margaret, Harry, John, and James (all deceased). Martha married Art Wellington, now deceased. Eva married Albert Belisle, also deceased. Mrs. Belisle and her two sons reside in the Ontario vicinity.

RICHARD S. RUTHERFORD, who laid claim to being the first citizen of Ontario, was born in Armagh county near Belfast, Ireland, February 22, 1840. When only eighteen months old he came with his parents, Thomas and Amelia Parks Rutherford, to Quebec, Canada. In 1848, the family moved to Niagara county, New York, and in 1852 came further west to Tuscola county, Michigan. In 1856, when only sixteen years old, "Dick" Rutherford started out alone in life, going to Scott county, Missouri. He was in Missouri at the beginning of the Civil War and appears to have been one of the few soldiers of that conflict who fought on both sides. I heard him say that he first enlisted under General Jeff Thompson, but when the Confederate general retreated south from Missouri he went over to the Union side and fought for the remainder of the conflict to preserve the Union. He enlisted in Company H, 8th Missouri Volunteer Infantry. His regiment was part of the XV Army Corps, under General John A. Logan in General W. T. Sherman's Army. He was in the battles of Fort Donilson, Corinth and Shilo. After these engagements he was promoted to head wagon-master of the XV Corps. He participated in the battles of Vicksburg, Jacksonville, Atlanta, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain and Nashville. As a teamster at the battle of Vicksburg, with a twenty-four mule team, he hauled the big cannon, "Whistling Dick," up the hill to be put in action after it had been unloaded from a river barge. At the close of the war he returned to his Michigan home and on June 14, 1866, was married to Miss Franklin Turner. The Rutherfords conducted a hotel in their home town until 1867 when they went to Georgetown, Colorado. Near there Mr. Rutherford discovered a silver mine which started the new town of Silver Plume. He mined and conducted a pack train until 1876 when he took his family to California and later to Nevada. In 1878 they went to Waitsburg, Washington, and

in 1880 came to Boise. He freighted between Kelton, Utah, and Boise until 1883, when he got a contract hauling ties for the Oregon Short Line railroad and came to Ontario at the time the town was being located. He later had the contract to deliver ties for the railroad between Payette and Weiser that had been floated down the Payette River. He said he saw railroad workers lynch and hang a barber at Weiser for killing a member of their crew.

After completing his contract with the railroad company, Mr. Rutherford returned with his family to Ontario and opened a restaurant in the Morfitt building on the northeast corner of Oregon Street and Washington (Second) Avenue. Later he built and conducted the Rutherford Hotel, a two-story frame building near the present site of the Alexander Clothing store. Because of his hotel operations he was given the nickname of "Coffee Dick" by some of the town wags. Soon after coming to Ontario he took up a land claim about a mile northwest of Ontario and built a small two-room house but abandoned the claim when he found he had located on road land. Some years later he located a soldier's homestead about two miles south of town. When he moved to the homestead he leased the hotel to Mrs. Mary Welch, who, with her daughter Clara, conducted it until the daughter married H. W. Clement. This hotel and all the buildings in the block, except the Hulery saloon, including the Railroad Hotel and Odd Fellows Hall, were destroyed by fire in the first disastrous fire in Ontario. In 1902, Mr. Rutherford sold his farm and erected a residence on North Oregon Street where he went into retirement. He was a member of the I.O.O.F. Lodge No. 90; a past commander of A. P. Hovey Post No. 21, Grand Army of the Republic; a member of Acacia Lodge A. F. & A. M.; and Armor Lodge No. 69, Knights of Pythias. Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford sleep in the Ontario Evergreen cemetery. They were the parents of five sons, Roy, Ben, Charley, Ray and Adrian. Roy, of Long Beach, California, and Adrian, of Nampa, are the only ones living.

GEORGE M. DUNCAN, a native of Illinois, was born January 22, 1843, to Dudley W. and Elizabeth Spiller Duncan. He was orphaned at an early age. In his youth he went to Kansas and in 1863 enlisted in the Kansas 15th Cavalry, which engaged in border warfare between Kansas and Missouri. On May 19, 1867, he was married to Susan D. Sult, daughter of Jacob and Georganna Sult. The seventeen-year-old bride was born in Indiana, December 6, 1850, and went to Kansas with her parents in 1865. Mr. Duncan took up government land and farmed there until the spring of 1880, when he sold his farm and came overland to Ironside in this county. He took a homestead, farmed and raised stock until his death in 1892. Mrs. Duncan and the children continued to look after the farm and cattle interests until her death in 1930 at the age of eighty-one years. The Duncans were the parents of Rosetta, who married Julian D. Lacey; Alice, who be-

came the wife of Cyrus W. Morfitt; Minnie, who died young; Albert, also deceased; Wiley, who married Gretta Wisdom; Cora A., deceased; Walter T., Ralph A., and Ray R. Ray married Shella, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Lackey and resides in Ontario. He is a prominent stockman and is also in the real estate business.

FRANK O'NEIL, for whom O'Neil Hot Springs, an early day stage station and health resort fifteen miles west of Vale, was named, was a native of Ireland. He was the son of John and Elizabeth O'Neil, and was born in County Antrim, Province of Ulster, May 10, 1846. He was raised on a farm in his native land until twenty years old, when he went to Scotland and later to England. On September 23, 1870, he embarked on the "Harvest Queen," sailing from Liverpool to New York, where he landed after a rough ocean voyage of thirty-eight days. From New York he went to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and a year later went to San Francisco. He worked at the lumber trade at various places in California. In San Francisco on December 18, 1875, he was married to Miss Mary Mullary. In 1881, they came by team and wagon to lower Willow creek where Mr. O'Neil located a quarter section of land and engaged in farming and stock raising. In 1882, Mrs. O'Neil was summoned by death. Three children had been born to them, Annie, Mary and Francis (Pat) O'Neil. Annie married a Mr. Zeller; they were the parents of one son. After Mr. Zeller's death she married Tom Jackson, now deceased, whose demise occurred after they moved to Ontario. She is now the wife of R. M. Carlisle. Mary O'Neil married another well-known pioneer, J. T. Logan, now deceased.

On October 12, 1886, Frank O'Neil and Mrs. Anna Jackson were united in marriage. She also had three children by a former marriage, Frank C., George W., and Mamie Jackson. Miss Mamie Jackson became the wife of Charles W. Madden. For many years they resided in Westfall where Mr. Madden was engaged in the store business and was a stockman. Later they owned and operated a dairy farm southeast of Ontario. Their son, Eldon, a former Malheur county stock inspector, now resides in Hermiston. Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Madden are both deceased.

To Frank and Anna Jackson O'Neil two daughters were born. They are now Mrs. Robert Nichols and Mrs. R. P. Crain. Mrs. O'Neil came across the plains with her first husband, Stephen Jackson, from Wisconsin, with their three children in 1882, and located at what was later known as the O'Neil Hot Springs. Mr. Jackson was mysteriously murdered there and Mrs. Jackson was found unconscious by neighbors, near the haystacks where the family was sleeping during the warm summer nights. The assassins are said to have come down from a nearby hillside and attacked them as they slept. No clue was ever found as to the identity of the murderers nor a motive for the dastardly crime.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank O'Neil in their later years became residents of

Vale. Both are deceased. Mr. O'Neil was a stockholder and director in the first bank established in Vale.

Another fatal tragedy also occurred before the county was established, happening about 1886, when John Norwood was killed at the Norwood ranch on Willow creek by the tenant, William Renfrow. Renfrow went to Baker and surrendered to the authorities where he was tried and freed by a jury. Norwood's young son, John, now a prominent pioneer whose mother was deceased, was reared by Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Wells.

MILTON G. HOPE was born in Brookfield, Wisconsin, August 31, 1859. His parents were George W. and Emiline Williams Hope. In 1862, the father enlisted in the 25th Wisconsin Volunteers and took part in the siege of Vicksburg and other engagements. While preparing to go with General Sherman on his march to the sea, he took sick and died in a hospital at Memphis, Tennessee, in 1863. In 1870, Milt Hope, with his widowed mother and other members of the family, migrated to Brown county, Kansas. Milt was educated in the community schools and Atchison (Kansas) Institute, after the family moved to Norton county in 1873. In 1880, he went to Colorado, and the next year was joined by his younger brother, Isaiah W. Hope. The two brothers formed a partnership, which continued after they went to Bellville, Idaho, on Wood river in 1882. The next year they located on the Malheur river above the Stone House, and took up claims where the village of Hope is now located. In 1885, they established the first general mercantile store in Vale. Hope Bros. store later became the Vale Commercial Company in 1901. M. G. and I. W. Hope were instrumental in organizing the First Bank of Vale and were among the largest stock holders. Hope Bros. at one time owned sixty acres of land that embraced the famous Vale hot springs as well as other large tracts of land. M. G. Hope, a staunch republican, served eight years as postmaster of Vale. He also served two terms as mayor of the city.

M. G. Hope was married twice. His first wife, Miss Emma H. High, whom he married in Nampa, Idaho, was the daughter of Francis and Sarah High, of Norton, Kansas. The Hopes were the parents of three children. Their son, Leslie L. Hope, was for many years a prominent businessman of Vale. Mrs. Hope died in Vale. M. G. Hope's second wife, Miss Ora C. Smith, a native Oregonian, was a teacher in the Westfall and Vale schools before the marriage. They were married in Portland, February 5, 1907. Milton G. Hope died in Vale, January 29, 1927.

Mrs. Ora C. Hope, widow of M. G. Hope, was elected treasurer of Malheur county on the republican ticket in 1933, and re-elected at each succeeding election, being the present incumbent, having started on her eighth term in January, 1949.

ISAIAH W. HOPE, younger brother of Milton G. Hope, was born in Brookville, Wisconsin, September 28, 1861. In 1880, the two brothers

became associated in business in Colorado, which partnership continued in Idaho and Oregon until the elder brother's death. Upon their arrival in Malheur county in 1883 they took up homesteads on the Malheur river above Vale. Besides other enterprises already mentioned they were instrumental in organizing the Vale Milling Company, which built the second flour mill in the county. Other business activities of I. W. Hope have already been told in the brief biographical sketch of his brother.

In 1880, I. W. Hope was married to Miss Lillie B. Gillerman, daughter of Fredrick and Hannah Gillerman, who were among the first settlers on the Malheur river. They are the parents of three daughters, Norma E., Irma D., and Mazie. Mr. Hope was elected representative from this county to the legislature on the republican ticket in 1894 and re-elected in 1896. Up to that time no representative from the county had been elected for a second term. Hope Bros. were the organizers of one of the first companies to drill for oil in the county. Several wells were sunk in the vicinity of Vale. I. W. Hope has always taken a leading part in the development of Vale and the county in general, working for the best interests of both from the time of the town's inception. Now at the age of eight-eight, still residing at the county seat, he is main official in the Vale irrigation system.

W. CROCKER JOHNSON, a native of Virginia, with his second wife, Mrs. America Arnold Johnson, migrated to Missouri and in 1883 came to Oregon, permanently locating in the Bully creek section. Mr. Johnson bought the Isaac Ross 200-acre farm near Westfall and followed stock raising and farming for many years. About 1904 he sold the place to Ben F. Jordan and moved to Payette where he died not long after. Following her husband's death, Mrs. Johnson bought the Retta Payne residence property in Ontario, on First Street, where she resided until her death October 6, 1931, at the age of 76. She was born in Lee county, Virginia, May 24, 1854.

Crocker Johnson was the father of six children by his first marriage, four sons and two daughters: Allen, Charles, Emmett, James, Mrs. Sarah Carlton and Mrs. Jessie Briggs. Three children were born to him by his second wife, one of whom died in childhood. A son, Taylor Johnson, still resides at Westfall. A daughter, Mrs. Elmer Dorey and her husband, resided at Westfall for many years before locating in Ontario. They are both deceased.

ALLEN JOHNSON, eldest son of Crocker Johnson, with his parents, his three brothers and two sisters, came to Oregon when he was about sixteen years old, in a covered wagon drawn by horses and mules. They first located in Baker valley in the spring of 1883 where the men folks of the family worked on the O. R. & N. railroad, that was building through the valley, until October when they came to Westfall where they permanently settled.

In 1904, Allen Johnson was married to Miss Mary Morton. To this

union was born one son, Karl, who died in 1936. The wife and mother preceded him in death, having passed away in 1912. Mr. Johnson was married to his second wife, Mrs. Lucy Lamberson Fahy, widow of the late Jay D. Fahy, on August 20, 1940. They now make their home in Ontario.

CHAPTER 16

ADVENT OF THE RAILROAD

*Where they who followed have smoothed the path
For the track of the iron horse,
Between the rocks and around the hills
It threads its sinuous course.*

—Mrs. J. C. Davis.

The Oregon Short Line railroad, a branch of the Union Pacific, was built from Granger, Wyoming, to Huntington, Oregon, a distance of 418 miles, during the period of May, 1881, to November, 1884. Separate sections upon completion, were turned over to the company by contractors for operation. The completion dates were: from Granger, Wyoming, to Montpelier, Idaho, August 5, 1882; to Pocatello in the fall of 1882; from Pocatello to American Falls in January, 1883 to Shoshone, March 10, 1883; from there to Glenn's Ferry July 1, 1883; to Caldwell September 25, 1883; to Nyssa, Oregon, December 16, 1883. Ontario had first rail service on January 1, 1884 and Weiser, Idaho, January 20, 1884. The final section to Huntington was completed November 20, 1884. At Huntington, the O. S. L. connected with the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company, building east from Portland, another part of the Union Pacific system. The O. R. & N. missed the towns of Union and La Grande. The latter town moved over to the railroad.

The Oregon Short line first crossed the Snake river at American Falls and traversed along the north bank of that stream to Glenn's Ferry. From there the O. S. L. turned north over what was then a sage brush plain to Mountain Home, a former stage station on the Boise-Kelton wagon road. In another chapter has been given a review of the settlements in what is now Malheur county prior to the building of the railroad through the Snake river valley. A brief review is here given of the important

localities on the Idaho side of the river at the time of the coming of the railroad.

Boise City and Emmettville became trading posts about 1863, following the discovery of gold in Boise basin. A stage station was established at Weiser in 1863 and another station and trading post at Huntington. Weiser was founded about 1866. Caldwell was first named Hamberg—for a blacksmith, Jake Ham, who established a shop there in 1878. Abraham Caldwell, of Leavenworth, Kansas, and his son-in-law, Robert Strayhorn, of Omaha, Nebraska, were granted certain concessions by the Oregon Short Line Company which vested them with authority to establish railroad stations along the line for the company. Caldwell and Strayhorn organized the Idaho-Oregon Land Improvement Company to carry out their work, with Caldwell as president and Strayhorn as manager. When the railroad reached Hamberg they platted a townsite to which they gave the name Caldwell for the president of the company.

In 1883, Caldwell was a city of tents. In 1882, the first store was opened in a tent by Monte B. Gwinn, a well-known Idaho pioneer. The first frame store building was built in 1883 and was occupied by T. T. Danilson. The next year, 1884, Mr. Danilson opened the first mercantile establishment in Ontario in a tent.

Then as now, Boise was the largest town in the Snake river valley. Boise businessmen were under the impression the railroad could not afford to pass them by. They were so certain that the main line would pass through Boise that they declined to grant the railroad company certain required concessions. Hence, the railroad missed Boise and passed through the valley to the west. Had Boise granted the requested favors it is quite probable that the O. S. L. would have built through that city and continued on the east bank of the Snake river, not entering Oregon until after passing Weiser.

The Idaho & Oregon Land Improvement Company did much to improve the new town of Caldwell and was instrumental in securing the establishment of the College of Idaho there. Caldwell was made the county seat when Canyon county was cut off from Ada county in 1892.

With the advent of the railroad through the fertile valley of the Snake, new railroad stations sprung up along the line. The most prominent of these stations today are Ontario, Payette, Nyssa and Parma. The name of Vale supplanted "Stone House" when a postoffice was established there in 1883.

The O. S. L. railroad crossed the Snake river into Oregon just south of Nyssa. According to R. S. Rutherford, who was then a railroad company employee, preliminary surveys were made along the Oregon side of the Snake from Ontario over Dead Ox flat to Huntington. The company



FIRST DWELLING HOUSE ERECTED IN ONTARIO IN 1884

How the residence looked in 1900 at time it was the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Chambers. Mrs. Tina Morton Chambers in front yard. Building still standing at northwest corner of First Street and Second Avenue in 1950.

finally decided to cross the river just north of Ontario. It was bridged again near Old ferry between Weiser and Huntington.

On June 11, 1883, William Morfitt, James W. Virtue, Daniel Smith and Mrs. Mary Richardson—the last three being residents of Baker City—each exercised their desert land right on four sections of land that met at a common corner. The four claims joined at a section corner now located in the alley directly back of the present Ontario City Hall. The original townsite of Ontario was surveyed by William Morfitt, a civil engineer, and is thus described: N. E. Quarter of Section 9, S. E. Quarter of Section 4, S. W. Quarter of Section 3, N. W. Quarter of Section 10; Township 18, South of Range 47, East of the Willamette Meridian.

After the location of the Ontario townsite, William Morfitt, accompanied by his senior son, James,* interviewed officials of the Idaho & Ore-

* Extracts from two letters received from James Morfitt shortly before his death September 11, 1946. (The last letter was dated at Nelscott, Oregon, September 7):

"I think my father built the first building (in Ontario) in the fall of 1883. I went with him in the spring of 1883 to Caldwell to see Strayhorn to get the depot for Ontario, and he succeeded . . . Father occupied the first building he built as a dwelling, but he never had a store in it. I think it was after it was moved across the track that he occupied it as a dwelling.

"Father built the first dwelling that you mention for a home. I think it was built in 1884 . . . I do not believe that the Durr family ever occupied father's house.

"I was running a saw-mill in Baker county during this time and R. S. Rutherford hauled lumber from the mill to build those houses. We started the mill in 1882 . . . The mill mentioned was on the head of Coontz creek, just over the divide that separates Malheur and Baker counties, not more than a mile from the county line, and about 12 miles from Malheur City. My son Frank was born there."

gon Land Improvement Company in Caldwell for the purpose of securing a railroad station for the new townsite.

Some of Ontario's present-day citizens probably do not know that the town was first located between two and three miles south of the present business center.

When the railroad tracks were completed to the vicinity of the present Ontario stockyards, a side track was put in which led to the general belief that a station would be established there. But the road continued on past and the place became known as "The Siding."

William S. Glenn, pioneer merchant of Malheur City and Glennville, opened a store at "The Siding." John Tillson, a deputy land commissioner of La Grande was hired to run this store by Mr. Glenn. Oscar W. Scott, who had come from California in 1880 and settled near Dell on lower Willow creek, opened another small store at "The Siding."

J. A. Morton, who had a homestead near there, circulated a petition and secured a postoffice that was established in the Scott store, with O. W. Scott as postmaster in 1883. The name of "The Siding," was changed to Mortonville in honor of that sterling pioneer, Joseph A. Morton.

When Glenn and Scott established stores at Mortonville, Robert Strayhorn, locator of townsites for the railroad company, selected Washoe across the Snake river, about half-way between Ontario and Payette as the townsite for a railroad station in that vicinity. A townsite company was formed in which J. T. Clement, Jacob Stroup, James T. Thorp, and Richard Waters became stockholders. Waters was a son-in-law of Judge Clement. The townsite was laid out on land owned by Mr. Thorp and a number of lots were sold. A sidetrack was built and excavation was started for a depot.

In the meantime two townsites were located close together on the north bank of the Payette river, where the railroad crossed the stream. The first town, located by William Masters, took the name of Boomerang. There are different versions as to the way this name became applied to the town.

Mrs. S. D. Stroup told me that two "boosters" from the town, while on a visit to Weiser, were asked the name of their new town and jokingly replied, "Boomerang." Another version is that the town derived its name when railroad ties, floated down the Payette river, were caught in a boom thrown across the river at that point. Another version was that the name originated from the newspaper, "*Boomrang*," published by Bill Nye, the famous humorist at Laramie, Wyoming.

The two towns were consolidated and took the name of Payette through the efforts of the pioneer merchant, A. B. Moss, and others. Moss and his brother, Frank, conducted one of the first two stores in Payette. David S. Lamb opened the other store. For many years before the establishment of the towns of Ontario, Payette, Vale and Nyssa, Falk's store, on the Payette

river about twelve miles east of Ontario, was the nearest trading point in the locality.

The O. S. L. railroad missed the old town of Weiser by about a mile. A new town was located near the depot and most of the old town was moved in.

Some present-day citizens of Ontario may be unaware that the town was first started on the east side of the tracks. R. S. Rutherford and A. H. McGregor told me that William Morfitt built his store building a short distance east of the railroad near a side-track, in the vicinity of the present freight depot. McGregor, a carpenter, said he helped build both buildings and Rutherford said he moved the Morfitt building across the track to the northeast corner of Oregon Street and Washington (now SE Second) Avenue where the Morfitt family occupied it as a dwelling. Later the Richardson building was moved to the southwest corner of the same intersection and W. E. Hulery opened a saloon on the present site of the W. H. Laxon clothing store. After the Morfitt family moved out Mr. Rutherford opened the first restaurant there. The building was 25x60 feet.

In the autumn of 1883, a one-room school house, built by subscription of parents, was erected a block South of the present high school. Miss Iona Morfitt, only daughter of the locator of the townsite, opened a three-months' subscription school. R. S. Rutherford donated the first load of lumber which he hauled from the Morfitt sawmill on Coontz creek. Among others who donated labor and material to build the school house were J. A. Morton, Alex Darr, G. W. Blanton, G. W. Brinnon and A. H. McGregor.

At the time the Ontario townsite was incorporated, Robert Strayhorn had a disagreement with J. S. Thorp, one of the owners of Washoe townsite, and crossed over the Snake to Ontario. The Ontario townsite was deeded to the Oregon-Idaho Land Improvement Company. This action was taken for the purpose of securing a depot for Ontario. The Strayhorn Townsite Company was organized and sold several lots, as Ontario forged to the front.

The first store in the village—the T. T. Danilson tent—was located on a lot between the present Ontario Pharmacy and the present brick passenger depot. Mr. Danilson had been a government Indian agent on the Bannock reservation at Fort Hall. He followed the railroad builder into the Snake river valley operating a commissary. Seth H. Oliver, son-in-law of William Morfitt, became associated with Mr. Danilson in the store.

When Robert Strayhorn folded his tent in Washoe and pitched it again in Ontario, the dream of a Washoe townsite faded. When Mr. Strayhorn abandoned the Washoe townsite and assumed charge of the Ontario townsite company, J. T. Clement cast his lot with Strayhorn and came to Ontario. They opened the first lumber yard on the corner now occupied by the Ontario Pharmacy and Keeney Bros. & Keele's hardware store. Strayhorn later sold his interest in the lumber yard to his partner and

continued his vocation of locating townsites for the railroad company. Mr. Clement moved the lumber yard a block north to the present site of the Van Petten lumber yard in 1884. He built a two-story dwelling on the Peterson furniture store corner. In September, 1884, Mr. Clement brought his family from Washoe. He opened a fence factory, in 1888, in connection with his lumber yard which was the county's first manufacturing establishment.

After Mr. Clement removed his lumber yard, a store building was brought from the old town of Weiser to the present Pharmacy site. In the autumn of 1884 Danilson and Oliver moved their store from the tent into this building.

Oscar W. Scott moved his store building and postoffice from Mortonville, in 1884, to the present site of the Malheur County Bank in Ontario. Soon afterward he erected the two-story Railroad Hotel on the site now occupied by the Western Auto Supply Company store. The hotel was opened on Thanksgiving Day, 1884, with a grand celebration and ball in which the Caldwell brass band furnished the music. A large throng assembled to celebrate the occasion. Some guests came from Caldwell, Weiser, Payette, Malheur City and the upper country. The postoffice moved into the hotel lobby and the building it had occupied was moved to the rear of the hotel. Mr. Scott built a one-story building adjoining his hotel on the north in which his step-son, Frank M. Vines, conducted a saloon. A well was sunk at the outer edge of the sidewalk in front of the hotel and saloon. This well supplied water for the business part of the town.

In 1884, Joe Durr and family, a blacksmith, came from Malheur City and built a shop on the southwest corner of the Railroad Hotel block. When the shop building was nearing completion, Durr was found dead at the foot of a ladder leaning against the building. There was a rumor of foul play that lacked confirmation. It was generally believed he had died from a heart attack while on the ladder. This was the first death in Ontario. The Durr family lived in a farm dwelling near Cairo Junction. After her husband's death, Mrs. Durr and her three small children returned to Malheur City. Some time later they moved to Baker City. Mrs. Durr, about 90 years of age at the time of this writing, still resides in Baker.

Joseph M. Duffy and his brother, Isaac, conducted the first drug store in the town in a small building constructed by D. B. Purcell, south of the Railroad Hotel. Mr. Duffy first settled on the lower Owyhee in 1884 and moved with his wife and two children, Harry A., and Jessie, to the new town of Ontario in 1885. They lived in the rear part of the store building.

William Morfitt, in 1884, built Ontario's first dwelling that still stands at the northwest corner of Richardson (First) Street and Washington (Second) Avenue. It is the oldest building of any kind in the city. Mr. Morfitt also erected the first livery barn in town. William Morfitt, Jr., and Leonard

Cole operated the barn as Ontario's first liverymen. They were succeeded by James M. Blanton. The livery stable, in 1897, became the first building to be destroyed by fire.

When the O. S. L. selected Ontario as the railroad center, Mortonville, as well as the proposed town of Washoe, became ghost towns. William S. Glenn dismantled his building at Mortonville and the lumber was hauled to Glennville.

The Ontario *Argus*, in 1930, credited James A. Lackey with a statement that at the time William Morfitt, Sr., located Ontario's townsite, he decided to name the town Ione, for his only daughter. James W. Virtue, on whose land the townsite was located, desiring to honor the place of his nativity, Ontario, Canada, prevailed upon Mr. Morfitt to change the name to Ontario. R. S. Rutherford was the first person to tell me that Ontario was originally located near the present stockyards and that it was first named Mortonville. In my *Intimate History of Malheur County*, published in the Ontario *Argus*, I stated that Ontario had had three names, first Morton, then Ione and the present name, Ontario.

Mrs. Elizabeth Morfitt has informed me that Mr. Morfitt had in mind naming the town Ione. She said that Mr. Morfitt, J. W. Virtue and Mrs. Mary Richardson, three of the four original owners of the townsite, each had a name they desired to bestow upon their new town. They cast lots to decide which one would name the town. Mr. Virtue was the winner. Russell Scott, youngest son of W. J. and Ardella Scott and a grandson, O. W. Scott, Ontario's first postmaster, has given me some valuable historical data. He informed me that Ontario was first known as "The Siding." Taking into consideration the above facts, my former statement that the city of Ontario has had three names still holds good in a way. The first name being "The Siding," supplanting the second name, "Ione."

William Morfitt, who has been credited or blamed—according to the way rival factions looked at it—for moving the town of Eldorado to Malheur City, was also credited with having the postoffice moved from Mortonville to Ontario. A. H. McGregor and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Stroup gave me the information on the founding of the Washoe, Boomerang and Payette townsites.

In 1885, A. Rossi established a large sawmill on the former Washoe townsite that produced 20,000 feet of lumber a day and employed a large number of men. The mill brought prosperity to that locality and to Ontario and Payette. W. A. Coughanors established a lumber mill at Payette at a later date. The logs for these two sawmills and the mills at Emmettville were floated down the Payette river during the high water periods in the spring months. John Ridenbaugh, the prominent Boise lumberman, owned an interest in the Washoe mill and later moved it to South Boise.

W. L. Geary & Co., a firm in which Fred J. Kiesel, the Ogden, Utah,

capitalist was interested, purchased the Danilson store and made William Seaton manager. Not long thereafter T. T. Danilson and W. N. Shilling opened a hardware and general store in a building on the northwest corner of Oregon Street and Washington Avenue. William Shelby opened the first saddlery and harness shop. Mr. Shelby made his own saddles which were in great demand.

Captain W. L. Geary erected a two-story dwelling in the northwest part of town for himself and wife and five sons, Logan, Hamilton, Ernest, John, and Willie. Edgar H. Test, who had been in charge of a store for F. J. Kiesel at Hailey, Idaho, replaced Seaton as manager of the W. L. Geary store in March, 1885.

In the winter of 1884-85, a combination passenger and freight depot was constructed in Ontario almost on the site of the present brick passenger depot. G. L. King, who had been a telegraph operator and station agent for the Union Pacific at different points along the line came from Soda Springs, Idaho, to take charge as Ontario's first station agent in 1885. His family joined him a few months later. They lived in an apartment in the depot. A few years later the depot was enlarged to accomodate increasing business. The frame structure was moved in 1910 to its present location to make room for the new brick depot. It was converted into the railroad freight house. It is now the third oldest building standing in the city. Captain W. L. Geary erected the Canfield home, which was the second oldest structure, in the northwest part of town. He cultivated Ontario's first vegetable garden, which I set out for him in 1887. The garden was watered from his well by means of a wind-mill. Captain Geary sold his interest in the store in 1889 to Fred J. Kiesel and moved with his family to Berkeley, California.

T. T. Danilson bought the Geary dwelling and moved his family from Caldwell where they had been residing. The Danilsons had six children. The eldest, Willie died in California while the family was residing here. The other five were Josie, Theodore, Anna, Frank and James.

Captain William L. Geary was a drummer boy in the Union Army during the Civil War. His father, General Geary, was in command of the Union Army in the battle of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, the famed battle "fought above the clouds." After the war young Geary attended West Point and upon graduation served in the army until he was honorably discharged with the rank of captain. At the beginning of the Spanish-American War he again joined the army and went to the Philippines. After that war he returned to California where he died a few years later.

Not long after Captain Geary moved away the firms of W. L. Geary & Co. and Shilling & Danilson were consolidated under the name of Kiesel, Shilling & Danilson. Some years later when T. T. Danilson disposed of his interests and moved to Washington, Ward Canfield purchased the Geary



dwelling from Danilson, now the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Canfield.

On the opposite page is a view of Ontario, Oregon, as I first saw it in the spring of 1886. All the buildings in view were constructed in 1883 and 1884. The two-story building at the left was the Railroad Hotel. The next building on the north was the Scott saloon. Both were located on the west side of Oregon Street near Nevada (now Third Avenue). The next building (facing north) was on the south side of Washington (now Second Avenue) was the Morfitt livery barn that stood on the present postoffice site. The little building north of the Scott saloon, with another small building in the rear, was the property of the R. S. Rutherford family, the first to reside in the tiny village. This building later housed the first meat market and still later was the home of *The Atlas*, the first newspaper published in the county.

The William Morfitt white one-story dwelling, partly obscured by the Rutherford building, still stands at the northwest corner of First Street and Second Avenue, and is Ontario's oldest building. It was built in 1884. Visible in the distance, to the northwest, is the two-story residence of W. L. Geary, now the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Canfield. This was the second dwelling built in the city, and the second oldest still standing.

The next building shown in the picture (north of the small Rutherford building on Oregon Street) was the W. E. Hulery saloon that stood on the present site of the Bill Laxon Toggery. North across what was then known as Washington Avenue from the Hulery saloon stood the W. L. Geary & Co. store (on the present site of the Ontario Groceteria). Across Oregon Street, opposite the Geary store, facing west, the front part of the William Morfitt store building is shown. This was Ontario's first building. The Hulery building was second. The Morfitt and Geary dwellings with the U. P. freight depot are the only buildings of the original town still standing.

The first trees planted in Ontario were set out by "Aunt Phynn" Van Ness in the spring of 1885. She was a sister of Judge J. T. Clement. After the death of Mrs. Clement in Washoe in February, 1884, Mrs. Van Ness, a widow, came from the east to keep house for her brother and care for his small daughter, Edna. The family moved to Ontario in September. Following Judge Clement's second marriage, a home was built for Mrs. Van Ness on the present site of the James F. Divin family home. The trees the aged lady planted were silver maple—sometimes called silver poplar. She irrigated them by hand with well water. Only one of the trees lived and today it is the oldest tree in the city.

After Mrs. Van Ness' death in December, 1896, G. W. Mellinger, postmaster, purchased the property and built the two-story dwelling that is now the home of the Divins. Mr. Mellenger sold the property in 1907 to D. B. Purcell, father of Mrs. Winnie Divin, who now owns the property.

View of Ontario, Oregon, in 1884 to 1887

When Julian M. Field was with the *Argus* he ran "A Column o'Comment." In one issue he commented that three of Ontario's neighboring cities, Vale, Boise and Weiser, still contained the first building built in the towns. These were the Vale Stone House, and the first log cabins built in Boise and Weiser, and added that Ontario had no such similar landmarks. Evidently, Julian was unaware that Ontario has two similar landmarks that could be preserved for all time to come. One, the first tree planted in the city, and two, the Morfitt dwelling.

It is my desire to relate all Malheur county historic events without favoritism, prejudice or discrimination. After the demise of A. H. McGregor and R. S. Rutherford, who furnished the undisputable authentic information that T. T. Danilson had conducted the first store in Ontario and William Morfitt had built the first dwelling house, other stories were given publication that Mrs. Mary Welch opened the first store and G. L. King built the first house in town. These rumors were supplemented by statements that the Joe Durr family had occupied a house that previously had stood on the site of the Morfitt dwelling. These statements do not appear to coincide with the facts. According to other pioneers still residing in Ontario, and who were in the vicinity at the time of the founding of the town, the Durr family never resided in Ontario at any time and Mrs. Welch never, at any time, owned a store of any kind. At least four dwellings were built in Ontario in 1884. The King family did not come to Ontario until 1885 and they resided in the depot.

D. B. Purcell, who built the J. T. Clement residence in 1884, and the G. L. King residence some years later, in a published interview shortly before his death, stated that the William Morfitt dwelling was the oldest house standing in Ontario. Those who knew Dan Purcell know that he was very reliable and that he was in position to know whereof he spoke.

Harry B. Clement, who has aided me in gathering much authentic information for this publication, upon my request, interviewed Mrs. Susie M. Morton. I here refer to letters from Mr. Clement, one of which quotes Mrs. Susie Morton as saying:

"The first residence built in town was by William Morfitt and still stands at the corner of First Street and Second Avenue. She also says that she believes the second house was built by W. L. Geary and the third by J. T. Clement. She remembers the King family lived in the depot and came to visit my grandparents before they had a house of their own. She further said Mrs. Mary Welch never had a grocery or any other kind of a store in Ontario, but kept a bunch of cows and sold milk around town. She also said, 'the Welch family located on their homestead in 1884'."

Quoting from another letter from H. B. Clement:

"I seem to get the best information from Mrs. Susie Morton. She says the Durr family lived in a frame house in the country about where the Grange Hall at Cairo now stands. I remember this house standing in the sage brush before the Owyhee ditch was built."

I, too, remember this old house that still stood there at the time mentioned by Mr. Clement.

Here is more positive proof, that corroborates Mrs. Morton's statement, given by Mrs. Durr herself, that the Joe Durr family never resided in Ontario. It further establishes the fact that the William Morfitt dwelling was the first built in the city. Mrs. Joe Durr was interviewed by my pioneer friend, James E. Lawrence, a former Malheur county sheriff, who is now in business in Baker. Lawrence reported:

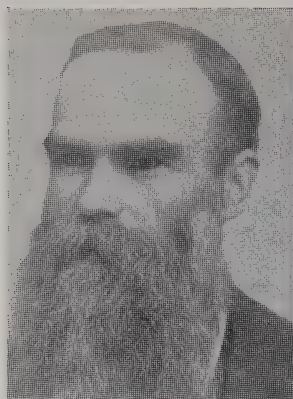
"I called on Mrs. Durr this date. She informed me that they lived on a ranch out of Ontario and not in town. After her husband's death she sold the farm and moved to Malheur City. She is now a very old lady. Must be ninety, or near that age. I was well acquainted with her son, Albert, who passed away a few years ago."

On my last visit to Ontario, Mrs. Elizabeth Morfitt, widow of the late William Morfitt, told me that the Morfitt family did not occupy the dwelling, but that his daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Seth H. Oliver, were the first occupants, immediately following their marriage. It has now been established that the first dwelling house in Ontario was first occupied in turn by three bridal couples. After the Olivers moved to Idaho, E. H. Test and his bride, the former Rosa Jones, sister of Judge Tom Jones, were the next to occupy the dwelling. When Test was chosen county clerk and moved to Vale, a man whose name I do not recall, came from Ogdon to succeed Test as manager of the W. L. Geary & Co. store and with his bride was the next to occupy the Morfitt dwelling. The next was Mrs. John F. Lackey, who brought her children from Nyssa to attend school. The next year, Mrs. W. W. Emison moved into it from the ranch so Charley Emison could attend school. When James A. Lackey succeeded his brother, John F. Lackey, as superintendent of the Oregon Horse & Land Co. he moved the headquarters to Ontario from Nyssa and, with his family, occupied the dwelling. He kept the NG saddle horses in a corral where the Morfitt livery barn had stood. V. B. Staples at one time occupied the dwelling.

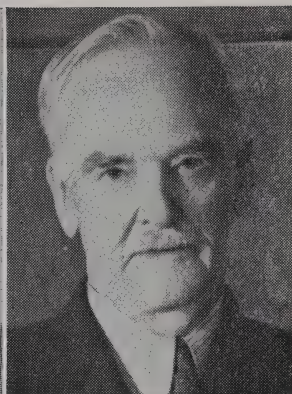
George W. Chambers, pioneer blacksmith and one of Ontario's first marshals, bought and occupied the dwelling in 1900. Mr. Morfitt had deeded it to his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Carlile Morfitt. Jacob Stroup purchased the property in 1920 and with his wife resided there until his death. After his demise, Mrs. Susanna Draper Stroup returned to their old homestead in Washoe where she passed away, February 14, 1935, at the age of eighty.

On my last visit in Ontario, while in conversation with Mrs. Elizabeth Morfitt, she informed me that a recent statement in the *Argus* that she had assisted her husband in surveying the original townsite was erroneous. The Ontario townsite was originally surveyed before she and Mr. Morfitt were married. She said that, after they moved from Malheur City to their farm southwest of Ontario, she helped her husband survey some lots within the townsite they owned.

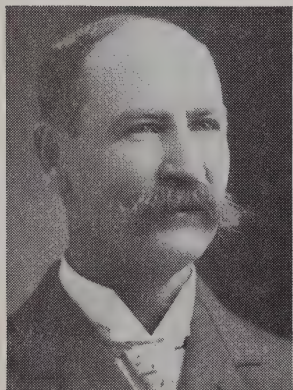
At the time the original Ontario townsite was surveyed the principal



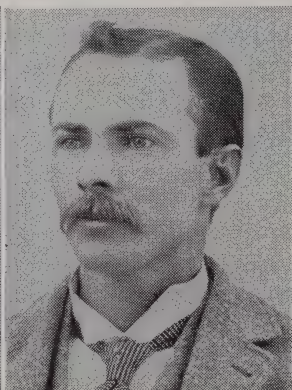
WILLIAM MORFITT
Founder of Ontario



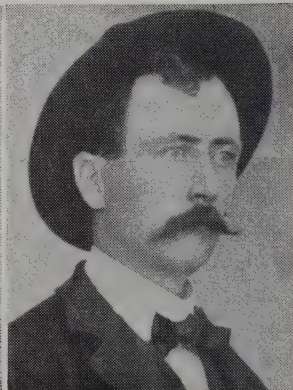
THOMAS JONES
First Deputy County Clerk



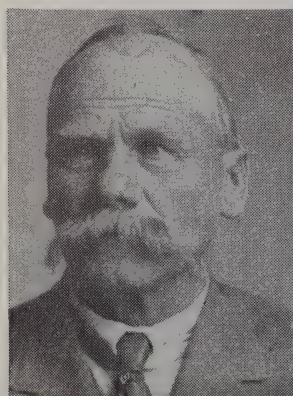
W. E. BOWEN
Founder of Ontario News



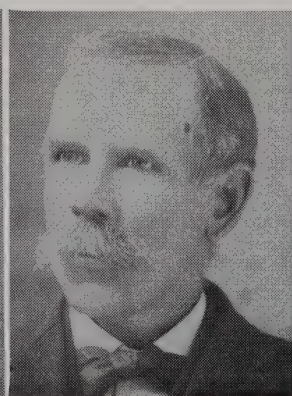
J. R. GREGG
Editor Ontario Democrat



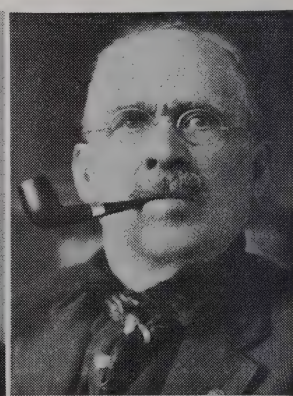
DON CARLOS BOYD
First Editor, Ontario Argus



J. E. JOHNSON
*First Malheur
 County Surveyor*



A. H. MCGREGOR
*Helped Construct First Two
 Buildings in Ontario*



R. S. RUTHERFORD
*First Resident
 of Ontario*

street was named Oregon Street. It is the only street in the city that retains its original name. The next street west was named Richardson Street, for one of the incorporators of the townsite, Mrs. Mary Richardson. It is now First Street. The other streets of the original town were also named for the incorporators: Virtue Street, now Second Street; Morfitt Street, now Third Street; and Smith Street, the first street east of the railroad track, was named for Daniel Smith.

A few years later when the city limits were extended, other streets were named for outstanding pioneer citizens: Clement Street for Judge J. T. Clement; King Street, for Judge G. L. King; Scott Street, for O. W. Scott; Morton Street, for J. A. Morton; Shelby Street, for William Shelby; Fraiser Street, for E. A. Fraiser. Grant, Harney and Wasco streets were named for counties in the state; Malheur and Owyhee Streets for the Malheur and Owyhee rivers. The avenues were named for several of the states, including Idaho, Washington, Montana, California, Nevada, Wyoming, Nebraska and Colorado. The original Idaho Avenue is the one now called First Avenue, and connected with the highways leading to the inter-state bridge across Snake river. The original Idaho Avenue had a railroad grade-crossing near the Van Petten Lumber Co. office. When the underpass was put in one block north on Montana Avenue, the name of that avenue was changed to Idaho Avenue, as it then connected with the road leading to Idaho. I can see no improvement in changing the original names of the streets that honored some of our prominent pioneers.

Work on the construction of the O. S. L. depots at Ontario and Payette started in the autumn of 1884 and they were completed in the spring of 1885. When G. L. King came from Soda Springs to assume the duties of first station agent, D. C. Chase was assigned as the first agent at Payette.

In the Seventies and early Eighties, mail was brought into Eldorado postoffice by a branch stage line from Baker City, with the main stage line operating between Walla Walla and Salt Lake.

Camp Steele, an army post, was established at the mouth of Rattlesnake creek, in what is now Harney county, August 16, 1867. A month later, September 14, 1867, the name was changed to Fort Harney. On June 14, 1880, Fort Harney, the last military post in Eastern Oregon, was abandoned. The city of Burns, in Harney County—named for the famous Scottish poet, Robert Burns—came into existence about 1882, although it is said a small store was started there in 1878 following the end of the Bannock-Piute Indian war. Prior to the establishment of a postoffice at Burns, mail was brought into the valley once a week from Canyon City by a mounted carrier to old Fort Harney. A stage line was established between Baker City and Burns by way of Malheur City, Agency Valley and Harney City.

Following the completion of the Oregon Short Line railroad through

the Snake river valley and the establishment of a postoffice and station at Ontario the stage line was changed from Baker City to Ontario. A daily stage was operated between Ontario and Burns by way of Vale, Westfall, Beulah, Drewsey and Harney City. The old fashioned stage coaches, with driver perched on the high seat and the passengers riding inside, required thirty-six hours to make the trip to Burns. According to schedule the stage left Ontario at 10:00 a.m., and arrived in Vale at 11:30 a.m., a distance of sixteen miles. Arrived at Westfall, forty miles from Ontario, at 4:00 p.m. Beulah, the next postoffice, was fifteen hours from Ontario; Drewsey was twenty-four hours and Harney, the last postoffice before reaching Burns, was thirty-two hours out of Ontario. The fare from Ontario to Westfall, \$3.50; Beulah, \$7.00; Drewsey, \$8.00; Harney, \$9.00; and Burns, \$10.00. The passenger was allowed free baggage of twenty-five pounds. It cost \$5.00 per hundred pounds to send express between Ontario and Burns, with charges to intermediate points in proportion.

J. M. Kellogg, of Baker City, was the first contractor on the Ontario-Burns stage mail route. He was succeeded by S. H. Williams. After Williams' death his son, S. S. Williams, took over the contract and operated the stage line for some time. Ves Williams later settled in Drewsey where he became a prominent citizen. Charles E. Boswell, later elected sheriff of the county, was the stage driver between Ontario and Westfall when I came to Ontario. A Mr. McLoughlin was the next driver and was succeeded by William White. Stage horses were changed at the Chandler place near the Halliday bridge, between Ontario and Vale. Another change of horses was made at O'Neill Hot Springs, between Vale and Westfall. William Fopian, an Italian, and his wife, Kate, conducted a stage station at the foot of Bendier mountain, between Westfall and Beulah, where another change of horses was made. Drivers were changed at Westfall and Drewsey.

Johnny Murray, son of William Murray, of Agency Valley, carried the mail on horseback once a week from Beulah down the Malheur river to Juntura and Riverside.

I have covered practically all of the settlements that were in Malheur county up to 1883. From this portrayal one can form a picture of the settlements in Malheur county and the Snake river valley in general, prior to the coming of the railroad.

In 1885, the town of Nampa consisted of a section house and water tank on an open sagebrush prairie. In November, 1885, a dwelling was erected on the site by Alexander Duffes. Soon thereafter, Mr. Duffes built a store and hotel and that was the beginning of the city of Nampa. Nampa takes its name from the Indian chief, Nampuh, (Bigfoot). The building of a branch railroad of the O. S. L. from Nampa to Boise about 1890 marks the beginning of Nampa as a railroad center. The building of another branch road from Nampa to Murphy in 1903, to handle shipments of ore from

the Delmar and Silver City mines, and the building of a third branch line from Nampa to Emmett a few years later increased the importance of Nampa.

The town of Council, Idaho, became the terminus of the Pacific & Idaho Northern railway, which was built up the Weiser valley from Weiser in 1899. The old town of Weiser was platted on the Weiser river in 1877. When Washington county was created in 1879, Weiser was made the county seat. Council Valley was so named because it was the ancient council grounds of the redmen long before the coming of the white man. Council Valley was first settled in 1876 when seven families located there. Salubra Valley was settled at an earlier date. When Adams county, Idaho, was created, Council was named the county seat. The P.I.N. railroad was extended from Council to the Payette lakes region in 1912 and the town of McCall was founded. The consolidation of the mountain and lake resorts of Van Wyke, Thunder City and Crawford form the town of Cascade, Idaho.

The Corvallis & Yakima railroad, built in Western Oregon, was completed to Albany in 1886. The name of the railroad east from Albany was changed to the Oregon & Eastern. Surveys were made to extend the line through a pass across the Cascade mountains and on through the Harney and Malheur valleys to the Snake river valley. A civil engineer by the name of Eckles was put in charge of the work on the eastern end of the line. His assistant engineer was named Clark. After making surveys through the Malheur river canyon, construction work was started near the mouth of the canyon in order to hold the right-of-way. About a mile of road-bed was graded and nearly a quarter of a mile of track was laid, after which work was abandoned because of a lack of funds. Different companies contended for the right-of-way through the canyon which was finally secured by the Union Pacific when the Malheur Valley Railroad was built from Ontario to Burns.*

After the Oregon & Eastern ceased work, Assistant Engineer Clark remained at the camp for some time to look after the company property. Bob Goslin and I stopped one night with Clark at his tent when on our way to the Harper ranch, where I was employed. Goslin and Dan Merrill were teamsters for the P. S. L. Co., hauling supplies from Ontario for the company.

The survey of the Oregon & Eastern came down Malheur valley to the Snake river near the north city limits of Ontario. The Pacific & Idaho Northern first established headquarters at Payette and the first survey ran up the Payette valley. Some grading was done southeast of Payette. It was

* A rather amusing anecdote—though not of a historic nature—was told of a German laborer at the railroad camp who was “fond of booze.” Vale at that time was known as “The Stone House,” and a saloon was there. After working a few days the German would draw his pay and leave for the Stone House. After spending his money and sobering up he would again return to camp. Asked where he had been he would reply: “Down to der Rock-Stone House.” Der Rock-Stone House became a general by-word at the railroad camp.

apparent there was a connection between the O. & E. and the P. I. & N. and that a trans-continental line was to be built from the Coast to connect with the Great Northern or some other line in Montana. Later the "PIN" headquarters were transferred to Weiser and the road was built up the Weiser valley instead of the Payette valley.

The Payette Valley R. R., from Payette to Emmett, was built nearly twenty years later as a subsidiary of the Union Pacific system to block rival lines from building through Payette canyon.

CHAPTER 17

EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN MALHEUR COUNTY

*There are no times like the old times,
When you and I were young,
When the buds of April blossomed
And the birds in springtime sung
The garden's brightest glories
By Summer's sun are nursed;
But, ah! the sweet violets,
The flowers that opened first.*

—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

In San Bernardino county, California, where I am writing this chapter, the pioneer society has preserved a list or honor roll of what is termed "covered wagon babies"; children that were born on the emigrant trail to California. I have suggested that a similar roll be preserved by the *Malheur County Pioneer Association*. However, I am not a covered wagon baby. I was fifteen years old when I came west. I came direct to Malheur county in an emigrant train, although it was not a wagon train, but a railroad train. I arrived in Ontario March 19, 1886, a little over a year after the Oregon Short Line railroad was completed from Granger, Wyoming, to Huntington, Oregon. There are perhaps some in the county that remember the rough old emigrant coaches, with their wooden seats, that could be converted into sleeping couches. The traveler was required to furnish his own bedding.

But those who came west in the emigrant coaches over the Union Pacific and Oregon Short Line in the early days fared much better than those who came earlier in the covered wagon trains. In this day of ultra-modern

transportation when we cross the continent in from one to five days, it is hard to realize that it took the early emigrants from five to six months to travel the Oregon Trail by ox team.

I came from my boyhood home in Alba, Missouri, with my mother and my brother Fred. My older brother, Joe, and my sister, Mrs. F. M. Draper, were residing at the David Dunbar place a little over six miles west of Ontario. F. M. Draper was running the ranch for Mr. Dunbar, and had sown a field of alfalfa that was just coming up. Joseph was living with Mr. and Mrs. Draper and was working with William Morfitt, Jr., and Charles E. Amidon. The ditch had been completed to within about five miles of Ontario and the water had been turned in.

R. S. Rutherford was the first person we met when we alighted from the train at the Ontario depot. Mr. Rutherford was running a dray and he conveyed us and our baggage to the Dunbar place. My first night in Oregon was spent at the Dunbar ranch. We were among the last of the Alba, Missouri, colony to arrive. F. M. Draper and family, the first of the Alba colony to come by train, came to Washoe in the spring of 1884. They got off the train at Payette, near a pile of railroad ties. They wanted to go to the home of Mr. Draper's brother-in-law, Jacob Stroup, in Washoe. There was no wagon bridge across the Payette river. Because of high water the Payette was not fordable at that time of year. A. B. Moss, the Payette merchant, sent his delivery wagon to haul their baggage to the railroad bridge where they were met by a wagon from the Stroup ranch.

D. B. Purcell, another brother-in-law, arrived with his wife and daughter, Iva, a few months later. They got off the train at the Washoe siding. In October, F. M. Draper and family returned to their former home in Alba. Jesse F. Draper and wife, parents of the Draper clan, came to Washoe from Alba later that fall. Their second son, J. A. Draper, with his wife and small son Paul, came to Washoe in the spring of 1885. Later in the spring of 1885, the F. M. Drapers and their two young sons, Harry and Bruce, accompanied by Mr. Draper's three youngest brothers, Jesse W., Robert R., and Ross R., returned to Washoe. Mrs. J. A. Draper and her son Paul, who had returned to Alba in the fall of 1885, accompanied by her brother, June J. Ingersoll, returned later. The next of the Missouri colony to come west was James M. Hubbard and his wife. In February, 1886, William J. Mink, wife and small daughter, Mable; Frank M. Duncan, wife and children, Davy, and Elma came next. Mrs. W. J. Mink was the youngest of the J. F. Draper daughters. My mother, my brother Fred and I, came the next month.

Wild grass hay, sub-irrigated from sloughs adjacent to the rivers, was the main crop. These meadow lands were considered the most valuable. The bench lands were considered less valuable because of lack of irrigation water. But when irrigation flood water was emptied by ditches from the Malheur

and Owyhee rivers the bench lands proved the most productive. Then settlers flocked in to locate on prolific bench lands, which, when developed, proved to be as productive as any land.

When I came, Malheur county had not been created and Idaho was still a territory. The county was organized the next year and Idaho was admitted to the Union as the forty-third state, in 1890.

Thomas D. Barton, a life-long bachelor, who came in 1882 from his native Illinois, was the first to settle in the immediate vicinity of Ontario. He painted most of the early buildings. "Uncle Tommy," as everyone called him, lived in an adobe cabin he built on his homestead, that now embraces the Malheur County Fair grounds and the Barton addition. Some of the bricks from his cabin were on display at the first meeting of the county fair. He died just before his 100th birthday in Portland a number of years ago.

Richard Welch and family, settled on a homestead in 1884, that joined the Barton place on the east. The Welch homestead now includes Ontario's Riverside addition. His homestead also embraced the island between the two railroad bridges north of town, which for many years was known as Welch Island. J. F. Doty acquired this island a number of years ago and then it became known as Doty Island.

The first railroad bridges across the Snake river were wooden structures. Barrels filled with water, were placed on the bridge at convenient distances apart, so the water could be used in extinguishing flames should the bridge be ignited by sparks from a passing locomotive. A man named Wallace was the watchman for these two bridges. His duty was to walk across both bridges after each train had passed to guard against fires and to keep the barrels well filled. His house was on the Idaho side, north of the long bridge and on the east side of the track in Washoe bottom. These two wooden bridges were replaced by steel bridges in the winter of 1894-95. The watchman's services were dispensed with after the building of the steel bridges and he left this locality. The residence he occupied was torn down and moved away.

Captain W. W. Payne, who was conducting the Ontario-Payette ferry when I came to Ontario, resided at the ferry house on the Oregon side of the Snake river above the railroad bridges and about a mile northeast of Ontario.

David Dunbar was living at his wild hay ranch southeast of Ontario on the banks of the Snake river. Dunbar, then was a bachelor. J. A. Morton's home was a short distance above the Dunbar ranch. His place adjoined Morton Island, which was also his property, and which produced an abundance of wild hay. A private ferry connected the island with the mainland near the Morton residence.

William Lockhart was residing with his family on a dry ranch adjoining the river bank a little southwest of the Morton ranch. C. E. Amidon

had located on a place along the railroad track a little over three miles south of town. He was soon joined by his mother who, with a grandson, came from Michigan to keep house for him. She later located in Washoe where the grandson was drowned in a slough.

Josiah Carter was located about a mile southwest of the Amidon place, across the road to the east of the present Will S. Reese place. Harry M. Plummer purchased the Carter place when Mr. Carter moved to town to open a livery stable. Mr. Plummer was an uncle of Harry B. Clement and Mrs. E. A. Wisdom. Hans Oft, a pioneer of later years, now owns the Harry Plummer place. Mr. Plummer went to Portland to live until his recent death, October 20, 1948, at the advanced age of 89.

W. W. Emison lived on his large hay ranch, near the railroad track, about a mile southeast of the Carter place. J. Buel Clement, second son of Judge J. T. Clement and father of H. B. Clement and Mrs. Wisdom, lived on a homestead adjoining the Emison place on the south. The next house south from the Clement ranch was where D. R. Ehrgood resided on a pre-emption claim, now part of the Nyssa townsite. Nyssa at that time included L. B. Boyle's grocery store, a section house and railroad water tank. The two-story headquarters house of the Oregon Horse & Land Company was about where the Nyssa sugar beet factory is now located. There were no other settlers between Ontario and Nyssa at that time, nor between Nyssa and the Owyhee river.

C. E. Boswell, who was driving the Ontario-Burns stage between Ontario and Vale, had a homestead on the hill just west of Ontario that now includes part of Villa Park. His residence was on the site of the Holy Rosary Hospital.

About a mile northwest of Ontario, on the Malheur river flat, R. S. Rutherford had taken a homestead and built a small two-room cabin, but he was living in Ontario. Finding that his claim was built on road land he moved it away. Thomas Lee's homestead joined the Rutherford claim on the west and he resided with his family in a three-room house about a quarter of a mile from the Rutherford cabin. A. H. McGregor's pre-emption claim, where he had "lived in a willow cabin," was west of the Lee place. But "Mac" had vacated the premises and at that time was conducting a hotel in Payette. The willow cabin was gone but remnants of a sagebrush corral were still there.

Farther up the Malheur flat, a mile or two west of the Lee place, C. D. "Dick" Davis and his family resided. North of Davis, nearer the Malheur river, was the bachelor home of George W. Smith—about three miles northwest of Ontario. A little to the east and north of the Smith homestead was the cabin of Bachelor G. W. Watkins, who had taught the Ontario school the year before my arrival. Across the Malheur river, east and a little north of Watkins, was the home of a third bachelor, William O'Brien, whose wild

hay ranch extended along both sides of the Malheur river. "Billy" O'Brien owned a large number of range horses. He rigged up a "straw-man," which he named "Whistle-Knocker," to break his wild bronchos for him. He introduced me to "Whistle-Knocker" when I was helping him put up hay, but I never saw the robot in action astride a wild horse.

The G. W. Brinnon family resided at the former Washoe ferry house, the ferry having been moved up the river the year before. The large Brinnon wild hay ranch was on both sides of the Malheur with the Snake forming the eastern boundary.

Billy Martin, bachelor, had a homestead on the south side of the old emigrant road leading from Washoe ferry to Tub Springs. Martin was a cousin of Mrs. Brinnon. Perry Kriss had a claim across the old emigrant road and north of the Brinnon place with the Snake river as the eastern boundary. The old emigrant road which was abandoned when the ferry was moved, ran up a gulch west of the Brinnon ranch toward Tub Springs.

Rev. Samuel Applegate's home was on high ground at what was known as Applegate hill, on upper Dead Ox flat, twelve miles north of Ontario. Dennis Dyer and Otto Strubble were the first stockmen to locate on lower Dead Ox flat near the present Annex village. J. W. Haworth, M. A. Patch and W. B. Patch, located on the lower flat about 1886. Samuel S. Hill, E. Erickson and Ed Ashley located on the upper flat about the same time.

The first house on the Ontario-Burns stage road west of the C. E. Boswell place, was the Alex Darr home, about four miles out of Ontario. His son-in-law, G. W. Long, lived about a mile farther west—a little beyond the southwest turn not far from the Malheur butte.

In the triangle between the three largest towns in the county, Ontario, Vale and Nyssa, the following settlers were located. Five miles out G. W. Blanton located his homestead on a shorter road to Vale that veered a little south of west off the stage road. His son, John, had a homestead farther west beyond the stage road near the butte. James M. Blanton's homestead was on the south side of the road, between the homesteads of his father and his brother, John, on the north side of the road. Frank B. Duncan took up a claim on the north side of the road between the homes of G. W. Blanton and his son, John, which he vacated when he discovered he had located on road land.

Jesse F. Draper bought a farm from John Nibler southwest of the J. M. Blanton homestead. East of the J. F. Draper place his two sons, F. M. and J. A. Draper, and his two sons-in-laws, D. B. Purcell and W. J. Mink, took up homesteads. James A. Hubbard, another of the Missouri colony, took up a homestead near them. When some of these homesteads were found to be on road land, all five of the homesteaders vacated their claims and moved into town. J. A. Draper, D. B. Purcell, W. J. Mink and J. A. Hubbard moved

their cabins from the homesteads into town. Soon after Hubbard sold his Ontario home and returned to Alba, Missouri

The Dave Dunbar place, close to the Nevada ditch, was a short distance southwest of the J. F. Draper home, near the present John Day highway.

The old Ontario-Burns stage road followed a section line due west from Ontario between Terrace Height and Holy Rosary Hospital, passing the Alex Darr place, located on the south side of the road. It turned to the southwest across a section of land near the G. W. Long place to the W. S. H. Cotton place seven miles from Ontario. Mr. Cotton, a Union veteran of the Civil War, was a native of England. His daughter, Mrs. Edith Geurin, and her husband J. H. Geurin, for many years citizens of Ontario, are both deceased. Their only daughter, Mrs. Ella Geurin Randall, resides in Ontario.

The first house on the stage road west of the Cotton place was the home of J. W. (Bill) Green, located on the north side of the road. His sister, Mary Green, kept house for him. A younger brother, Jake, sometimes lived with them. Mary Green afterward married Charles Gunderson, who lived on lower Bully creek about nine miles above Vale. They were the parents of Asie Gunderson, present city marshal of Ontario. Asie is a native son of Malheur county, born on his parents farm above Vale. The Gundersons moved to Boise and Asie was a member of the Boise police force before coming to Ontario. Bill Green died at the home of his sister, Mrs. Mary Gunderson in Boise, July 22, 1942, at the advanced age of 83 years. For forty years he had resided in the White settlement.

About half way between Ontario and Vale and about a quarter of a mile south of the stage road were the farm homes of C. H. Brown and C. W. Mallett. Their land holdings extended to the stage road. The Cammeron Arnold farm on the north side of the stage road joined the William Green place on the west. West of the Arnold place was the T. W. Halliday farm that extended west to the Halliday bridge. Across the stage road west of the Halliday homestead was the J. H. Chandler place. South of the Halliday and Chandler places was the large Steele and Adams ranch, with its extensive alfalfa fields, managed by I. H. Adams.

J. A. Walter's homestead was west of the Steele & Adams ranch and about five miles east of Vale. The Walter ranch was the nearest ranch to the head of the Nevada ditch and the first farm east of Vale. A secondary road, infrequently traveled, ran past the Walter farm from the Holliday & Steele and Adams corner and continued on the south side of the Malheur river, crossing that stream near the hot springs, connecting again with the stage road at Vale.

M. G. and I. W. Hope had recently opened Hope Bros. general store in Vale, moving in from their farms. Heads of families on the Malheur river above Vale included J. B. McLoughlin, W. G. Thomson and his

brother, John Thomson; Arthur W. Glenn, Thomas Thebo and his two grown sons, George and Charles; S. P. Stacey, Fred Gillerman, Isaac McCumsey, John Pederson, Dr. F. K. Fromen, G. W. Pierce, R. N. Linebarger, W. S. Boston, W. G. Pennington, Abner Robbins, L. B. Teter, William Ashmore, George Kershner, Z. G. Wilson, N. C. Long, Finley MacDonald, Ben McDonald, Herb Ricker, Otis Thayer. The Charles Eldredge homestead was near Vale. Among the Vale businessmen were H. C. Murray, D. C. Wells, L. A. Sevey, I. H. Holland. Near the mouth of Malheur canyon, Jep D. Osborn, a bachelor, conducted a small store called "Grove" in a cottonwood grove.

On lower Bully creek, about nine miles above Vale, the Utah colony headed by John E. Johnson located in 1884. Fifteen miles west of Vale, on the Ontario-Burns stage road, Frank O'Neill was residing at the O'Neill Hot Spring. He ran the stage station there.

Phil McCamman was the postmaster at Westfall and with Jack C. Skelton conducted a store. T. L. Arnold was postmaster at Beulah near the large Pacific Live Stock Company ranch in Agency Valley. Practically all of Harper basin was owned and occupied by the Pacific Live Stock Company. John R. Johnson was the Harper ranch foreman.

In Barren valley, near the Harney county line, C. R. Peterson and Vene Venator had their cattle ranches in the vicinity of Venator postoffice. In the locality around Cord four prominent sheepmen ranged their flocks: Thomas Turnbull, J. D. Billingsley, John Wood and J. H. Seaward.

On the lower Owyhee, at the base of Mitchell butte near the head of the Owyhee ditch, Jacob Huffman and his family had their home. His land was on high ground and was not benefited by the ditch. His proposal to put in a water wheel to raise the water to cover his land was opposed by the other settlers. The original survey of the Owyhee ditch was made by J. S. Millikin, a civil engineer. He was the father of S. J. Millikin, present assistant postmaster of Ontario. Among the settlers whose land came under the original ditch were T. C. Fletcher, J. S. Millikin, C. O. Wilson, G. R. Betterly, D. M. Rigby, Bud Dryden, John H. and Herbert J. Ward. Among others who located there between 1888 and 1900 were J. T. Hatfield, J. B. Bigelow, A. D. Morey, Henry Wilson, William Tremble, Charles Bradley, George Skinner, Gus and Otto Schweizer.

Eugene V. Pratt, a prominent sheepman, located on the lower Owyhee about 1906. He was married in 1908 to Miss Anna D. Steen, a pioneer teacher, who was teaching the Owyhee school. They later resided in the Nyssa vicinity for years. After her husband's death, Mrs. Anna D. Steen Pratt returned to her former home at Lebanon, where she has resided for the past twelve years. Their two sons are prominent farmers of the Nyssa locality.

Thomas Lowe is now the oldest pioneer citizen of the Owyhee locality.

Jake Mussel was located at Rocky Ford, on Sucker creek, on the road to Jordan valley. Near there Mussel killed a Spanish sheepherder in a dispute over the range. Mussel was acquitted of a murder charge after which he joined the Methodist church and became a minister. He was the first minister of the Methodist church in Ontario. W. H. Isaac's sheep ranch was in the vicinity of Rocky Ford. Isaac resided with his family in Caldwell. He later became associated with Monte B. Gwinn, the pioneer Caldwell merchant, in the sheep business and they continued to pasture their flocks in Malheur county.

Among the stockmen residing on Sucker creek in the vicinity of Three Forks were Natt Graves, W. C. Carlton, A. S. Moss, Charles Smith, William Smith, James Ford and W. F. Camp. Finley McKenzie settled there in 1888 and engaged in the sheep business. Another early day stock raiser of that locality who went by the name of McCoy, was revealed to be a woman upon her death.

A few miles beyond Three Forks, at the foot of Mahogany mountain, was the cattle ranch of John Strode. The Strode family made their home in Boise. The second son, Lee Strode, is now one of the prosperous citizens of the Three Forks section.

There was one general store in Jordan valley, the J. R. Blackaby Mercantile Co.; a hotel, livery barn and blacksmith shop. Mr. Blackaby was the postmaster. Among other settlers of the valley in 1886-87 were, William Parks, C. W. Platt, Con, Albert, Jerry and Dave Shea, W. P. Berrs, R. H. "Dick" Hart, A. F. Canter, William and D. D. Munger, David R. King, Will R. King, J. M. Dinwiddie, J. N. Fell, Harry W. Hicks, G. B. Glover, Sid S. Knight, James N. Manguin, George W. Clinton, Elbert H. Clinton, James McCain, C. A. Goodrich, Sherman Castle, Frank Cable, Joseph Tuttle, John C. Conners, Jack Bowden, Bert Hooper, T. A. Goodyear, John Baxter and Al Carp. Some of these settlers were located on Cow creek.

In the extreme southern part of the county, not far from McDermitt, Nevada, lived a few scattered settlers in what became Summit precinct. Among them were Con Ryan, Randall Sage and his father. Con Ryan was one of the early day county commissioners. Some years later he became a resident of Ontario and owned considerable real estate in that city. Mr. Ryan was an uncle of the present county school superintendent, Mrs. Kathryn Claypool. Randall Sage also resided in the Ontario vicinity for some time before going to Nevada. The Sages were the parents of four children, two sons and two daughters. The younger girl was an excellent horsewoman and rode in some of the races at the Malheur County Fair. Grace, the eldest daughter, died in a Japanese prison camp in the Philippines in August, 1944. Miss Sage went to the Philippines to teach school in 1928 and was married there to Robert Rigby. Her husband and ten-year-old son were also in the prison camp, but were later rescued by General McArthur's troops.

James M. Weaver and John F. Weaver, brothers, arrived from Grande Ronde valley in 1888 and engaged in farming on lower Willow creek. J. M. Weaver later opened a drug store in Vale. Both the Weaver brothers became prominent in republican politics. Jim served two terms as county treasurer and John was later elected county commissioner. Their mother was a sister of J. L. Cole.

A little later, after Malheur county was organized, a number of settlers took up land in the large basin, known as "The Hole in the Ground," on the Owyhee river, which now embraces the Owyhee government reservoir. Among these were, M. N. Fegtley, R. J. Ivers, X. Y. Littlefield, Charles Adams, Riley Horn, George Franks, Lester and Arthur Shaver. A postoffice was established which took the name of Watson. Frank Davis and his son, Conley, later operated a large stock ranch there for a number of years.

Edmund (Ted) Butler, the leader of the Woodbine, Iowa, colony arrived in 1887 and located his first home about a quarter of a mile west of where the Boulevard Grange hall is now situated. He was later joined by his two brothers, James and Elbert B., both of whom for years farmed in the vicinity of Cairo and Arcadia. Ed Butler's two brothers-in-law, Ward Canfield and John Landingham, and Mrs. Butler's two brothers, Will and George Clark, also came from Woodbine. Later A. M. Moody and his brother, W. T. Moody arrived and, for a number of years, farmed in the Cairo community. Ward Canfield engaged in business in Ontario and John Landingham ran a dray in the city until his death. T. T. Kahout, who for years was connected with the Empire Lumber Company in Ontario, was another member of the Woodbine colony.

Mrs. Elizabeth Butler, widow of E. B. Butler, Sr.; Mrs. Ada Butler, widow of E. B. Butler, Jr.; and Mrs. James Butler, all of whom outlived their husbands, reside in the Ontario vicinity. Mrs. Elizabeth Butler, now 80 years of age, resides with her son, Harry, in Ontario, whose wife, Viola, is deceased. She was born in Butler, Kentucky, September 25, 1869, the daughter of George T. and Sarah J. Bond. Elizabeth Bond and Elbert B. Butler, Sr., were united in marriage in Woodbine, Iowa, in 1886. Four years later, 1890, they came to Ontario and located on a farm near Arcadia. Mr. Butler passed away January 26, 1934. Hester Bond, a sister of Mrs. Elizabeth Butler, was the wife of the late Leonard Cole, a prominent early day citizen of the county. They were married at Woodbine, Iowa, in 1889. For some time they lived on Willow creek and later in Huntington and Long Beach, California.

William T. Butler, the prominent dairyman and farmer, residing near Ontario, and Mrs. Elizabeth Farmer, wife of Harry C. Farmer, for many years marshal of Ontario, are the son and daughter of the late Edmund and Helen Butler. When small children, they came with their parents from their native Iowa in 1888. Will Butler's wife is the former Maude L. New,

who came to Ontario when a girl in 1902 with her father, Lance New, and on older brother and sister from Nebraska. Her mother had died in Nebraska.

My first home in Oregon was the one-room frame cabin on my brother-in-law's homestead about four miles west of Ontario. He had cleared about an acre of ground and used the sage brush to fence it, mixed with layers of dirt. Many sage brush fences were built in like manner in pioneer days. I planted a garden, mostly watermelons, in the enclosure and irrigated it with water from the Nevada ditch. In the fall I attended school in town, walking the four miles and back. In the fall of 1887, we moved to the R. S. Rutherford homestead and in 1889 to the Lee place.

In the summer of 1892, I worked as rango for the NG company under J. A. Lackey and that winter I took my mother east for a visit to relatives at her birthplace in Illinois and to our former home in Alba, Missouri. The next spring we moved to the G. L. King place, adjoining the Ontario town-site on the west, where my oldest brother farmed the place for King. From there we moved to the homestead my mother filed on just west of the fair grounds. I paid Frank Davis \$200 to relinquish claim to the land; furnished the money to file on the homestead, paid for the lumber for a four-room house and paid J. A. Draper and D. B. Purcell for building the dwelling. I also furnished the wire and posts to fence twenty acres, bought fruit trees and planted and cared for an orchard. I bought alfalfa seed and Joe cleared about ten acres of the ground and planted and farmed the place. I furnished the money to make final proof, including the legal notices and paid all the taxes for a number of years.

This 80-acre homestead extended to the Malheur river flat. There was a wild pansy patch on the northeast corner of the place. This was the only place anywhere in this locality, that I know of, where wild pansies grew. In the spring of the year many children would come out from town to pick the pansies. Part of this 80-acre homestead later included the V. B. Staples and C. S. Johnson farms.

About two years after my arrival, J. H. Purcell came from Alba, Missouri, and located on an island in the Snake river below the Duncan ferry on upper Dead Ox flat. He afterward located in the Big Bend section and married the widow of Doug Murray.

Jay D. Fahy and Jay Branson came from Alba a few years later. They both located at Westfall and married sisters, Misses Lula and Fanny Lamberston. Fahy is deceased and Branson resides at Agate Beach.

H. L. Fox was among the last of the Missouri colony to arrive. For a number of years he was employed in the freight department at the O.S.L. depot in Ontario. He still holds the same position with the railroad company in Boise. My cousin, Mrs. Iva Fox-Stewart, came here later. She now resides at Hiawatha, Kansas.

CHAPTER 18

ONTARIO BECOMES STOCK SHIPPING CENTER

*We now have railroads, with trains every hour,
They've harnessed the rivers for light and for power;
We have rural delivery now of the mail,
And none of our stock is drove over the trail.*

—A. H. McGregor.

Ontario, in the spring of 1885, became the largest stock-shipping center in the Northwest. The Ontario stock yards served by a long sidetrack east of the main track, were first located about a quarter of a mile south of the depot. Stock was brought in for shipment from Malheur, Harney and Grant counties. Some stock was driven in from as far away as Lake county to be shipped to eastern markets.

The Oregon Horse & Land Company, generally referred to as the NG company, was said to be the largest horse company in the nation. The owners, Evans and Blewett, were former residents of Nebraska. The company had purchased the brands of some of the pioneer horse raisers, including the "L" brand from R. A. Lockett and the "NG" brand from Nat Graves. They adopted the "NG" brand. They also acquired the "IU" and "Bar Heart" brands. John F. Lackey, older brother of James A. and Andrew M., was superintendent for the company with headquarters at Nyssa. Fred Johnson, Neil Morehead and Jim Ford were NG foremen. NG was credited with having the hardest bucking horses on the range. Both Fred Johnson and Neil Morehead were excellent riders. Fred rode a "slick" saddle while Neil hobbled his stirrups. The Lackey brothers and Fred Johnson were natives of Virginia.

Jim Lackey succeeded his brother as superintendent of the company in 1892 and the headquarters were moved from Nyssa to Ontario. After John retired, Fred Johnson retired and returned to his native Virginia. Jim Ford went into the stock business at Three Forks. Several years later, he moved to Caldwell where he was appointed postmaster by President Wilson in 1914. Neil Morehead remained as foreman for the NG company until the firm went out of business. He then settled on a farm near Nyssa.

The two best "broncho busters" in the county were Alex Smith and Frank

Davis. I never heard of either of them being thrown from a bucking horse. Davis was the first man I ever saw ride a bucking horse. The horse had thrown its owner, Bain Eblin, near the Morfitt livery barn in Ontario. Frank volunteered to ride the bronco. Frank, a boy at the time, easily rode the horse although his feet didn't reach the stirrups which had been set for a taller man. Frank continued to mount the "hurricane decks" of bucking bronchos after reaching the age of sixty years.

The Pacific Live Stock Company, known by its brand as the LF company, was said to be the largest cattle company in the United States. The company was organized by T. M. Overfelt and Frank Swetzer who came into Harney valley in 1879, and was first known as T. M. Overfelt & Company. Miller & Lux, of California, and Hawk Mason, of Nevada, became members of Overfelt & Co. The company continued under the name until June, 1885, when Overfelt was accidentally killed by a runaway team. After Overfelt's death, Miller, Lux and Mason purchased the interest of their deceased partner from his heirs and the name of the firm was changed to Pacific Live Stock Company. Besides the ownership of several large stock ranches in Harney county, and in California and Nevada, the P. S. L. Co. established the Agency Valley and Harper ranches in Malheur county. They were the owners of a number of smaller ranches, including the Indian creek, Otis creek and Warm Spring valley ranches. It was said the company could drive their cattle from their northern California ranches to the Harper ranch and camp every night of the trip on their own land.

For a time Hawk Mason, Lou Rosenbaum and C. F. McKinney served at different times as general superintendent of the company. Later John Gilcrist took over the management. The company bought the land and some of the government agency buildings in Agency valley and the land in Harper basin from the Harper brothers. A large house and barn were built near the original Harper cabin home and about twenty men were hired to clear brush, fence and improve the ranch.

Ranch foremen in charge of the Harper at different times included John R. Johnson, Dan Dickerson and Bart Cronin. Mr. Cronin was the father of Charles Cronin and Mrs. James E. Turnbull. Charley Cronin and his mother now reside in Ontario. Mrs. Turnbull and her husband live in Salem where Professor Turnbull is in the employ of the state.

Among the P. S. L. range foremen were Lou Rosenbaum, Fred Stacey, Cam C. Kilburn and Bob Copeland, with headquarters at the Harper. Jim and George Wright were foremen at the Agency and Warm Spring ranches. T. B. Fisher was at one time in charge of the Otis Creek ranch. Charles E. Kenyon, later cashier of the First National Bank of Ontario, was for some time bookkeeper for the P. S. L. Co. at the Agency ranch.

Two other large cattle companies, previously mentioned, were the JH and Star ranches. "Uncle" Tommy Davidson sold the Star ranch and brand

to Monday & Johnson. Thomas Davidson and the father of John R. Johnson were at one time members of the California legislature at the same time and were close friends. A star brand was used by Davidson to brand his cattle and JH was the brand used by the other company.

The JH brand was owned by Ballentine & Eastman, who lived in Boise. The company ranch was at the mouth of Sand hollow about nine miles southwest of Vale. Among the cattle foremen for this company were J. A. Newton, Abner Robbins, Charles Rivers and S. H. Ross.

A. H. Robie has been credited with being the first to engage in the stock business in Harney valley. Mr. Robie, a resident of Boise, first engaged in the lumber business in Idaho and later moved one of his saw-mills to the left fork of Coffee Pot creek about 1867 and started the first saw-mill in Harney county. He produced the lumber and shingles to build the military post at Fort Harney. Mr. Robie brought cattle from Idaho in 1871. His cattle brand was diamond shape and it was from his iron that Diamond Valley takes its name.

Peter French and his father-in-law, Dr. Glenn, of California, purchased Robie's cattle in 1878. Mr. Robie was rounding-up his horses, which he had not sold, when the Bannock-Piute Indian war broke out. He was with Peter French at the Diamond ranch when the Indians attacked the ranch. This encounter has already been told in a previous chapter. After the battle of Silver creek, in which Buffalo Horn was killed, Mr. Robie took dispatches for General Howard from Fort Harney to Fort Boise. Robie was well along in years at the time he made this long ride. He died soon after reaching his home in Boise. His wife was the daughter of Colonel William Craig, one of the early day trappers who made the trip with Joe Meek and six other mountain men from Fort Hall to Fort Walla Walla with the first two wagons to travel that part of Oregon Trail in 1840. Craig's wife was a Nez Perce Indian woman. After Robie's death it is said his half-breed Indian wife offered a liberal reward for the head of the Piute chief, E'Gantz. This reward is said to have been the cause of E'Gantz decapitation after he was killed by Cayuse Indians. His head is said to have been preserved in alcohol and placed in a San Francisco Museum.

John S. Devine was among the first of the early day Harney county stockmen. He established the White Horse stock ranch about 1869. It was one of the largest and best-known stock ranches in southeastern Oregon at the present time. This ranch consists of some 7,000 acres, 2,000 of which is meadow land lying in a well watered basin. It is situated in Malheur and Harney counties, near White Horse mountain and Disaster peak, twenty miles north of the Oregon-Nevada state line.

Mr. Devine purchased the Island ranch and stock interests of the Venators and J. Cooksey in 1887, who four years before had come to Harney valley and established headquarters at the Island ranch. This was one of

the first stock ranches established in Harney valley. Mr. Devine has been criticised by many of the early settlers because of his method in securing land, but he has also been praised as being very generous. He assisted many of the poorer settlers in getting a start in the early days.

Mr. Devine became associated with Mr. Todhunter under the firm name of Todhunter & Devine and they acquired the Alvord ranch. The meadow on this ranch is said to produce a specie of sweet clover not found anywhere else in that vicinity. Mr. Devine imported blooded race stock and raised fine race horses at the Alvord ranch. He built a private race track to train his race horse's there. John S. Devine died in 1902 and the cattle interests of Todhunter & Devine, together with the White Horse, Alvord and Island stock ranches became the property of the Pacific Live Stock Company.

Veau Venator and Charles R. Peterson were the pioneer stockmen of the Crane creek section. C. R. Peterson brought his family to Ontario so that his children could attend high school. He bought a farm west of the fair grounds and erected a substantial residence. This property later became the Otto Luehrs place. Mr. Peterson retired from the stock business several years ago and with his wife moved to Berkeley, California. He died there January 18, 1944, at the age of 82 years, survived by his wife and four children. The two sons, Paul and Jack Peterson, are in the stock business in the vicinity of Crane. The two daughters reside in California. Mrs. Edna Duford lives in Berkeley and Mrs. Nettie Weiss' home is in Orange. Mr. Peterson is buried at his boyhood home at Fort Bidwell, California.

James Mahon, a native of New York state, came to Harney county in 1879. He became the leading horse and mule stockman of that county. The Mule postoffice was located at his home ranch. Mr. Mahon raised many mules. He imported blooded stallions and raised a fine breed of horses.

Another prominent Harney county stockman of the early days was John C. Foley. For a number of years he was foreman for the P. S. L. Co. Later he entered the cattle business at what is known as Foley Farm.

Catlow valley was named for John Catlow, an Englishman, who with his two sons, Edwin J. and Joseph J. Catlow, settled there in 1872 to engage in raising cattle.

In the early days, Jeff D. Billingsley was a range foreman for Todhunter & Devine at the Alvord & White ranches. Billingsley later went into the sheep business in the Steen mountain section. John Wood, another prominent sheepman, also ranged his stock in the vicinity of Steen mountain. Later both these pioneer sheep raisers ranged their flocks in Barren Valley. Following their retirement both moved into Ontario. Wood later bought the A. A. Brown ranch and farmed in the White Settlement for some years. A native of Scotland, he now resides with his wife in Vale.

Mrs. Emma Harrison Billingsley was summoned by death June 2, 1936, at the age of 50 years. She had been a resident in Ontario for 34 years. Her husband, a former state senator, Jefferson D. Billingsley, passed away ten years later in his Ontario home. The Billingsleys were the parents of three daughters: Ernestine, (Mrs. Cheley E. Boyer); Pauline, (Mrs. Francis Zimmerman); and Neva, (Mrs. Charles Beatty).

Other Barren valley pioneer sheepmen were Thomas Turnbull and J. H. Seaward. They both moved to Ontario after retiring and both died there. Thomas Turnbull was an uncle of James L. Turnbull, for many years superintendent of the Ontario schools. Mr. Turnbull, a bachelor and a quiet, unassuming man, was known for his charitable acts. He was a native of Scotland and was 85 at the time of his death, October 16, 1942. He came to America when 26 and to Malheur county in 1886. He was a 50-year member of the Ontario Masonic Lodge. He took active interest in civic and community affairs and generously aided many young people with funds for educational purposes. During the first World War he liberally contributed to the Red Cross and other patriotic institutions. Tom Turnbull's charity continues. He left a trust fund with Acacia Masonic Lodge to provide for medical aid, food and clothing for the deserving poor of Ontario, regardless of race or color; \$2,500 is provided for upkeep of Evergreen Cemetery. A \$7,000 trust fund left with the City of Ontario provides books and literature for the Malheur County Library.

The Ward Bros., John, Herb, George and Bill, of Nyssa, who ranged their sheep in the Owyhee breaks in pioneer days were among the sheepmen that marketed their wool in Ontario.

William (Bill) Hanley was among the last of the noted Harney county "cattle kings." He was owner of the "Double C" and "Belle A" stock ranches near Burns. He was one of the few frontiersmen that never carried a gun. He was known as *The Sage of Harney County*, because of his "Sagebrush Philosophy." Bill Hanley was a native Oregonian. He was born and reared on a Butte creek cattle ranch in Jackson county. He came to Harney county at the age of 17.

Mr. Hanley died suddenly at Pendleton, Sunday, September 17, on the last day of the 1937 *Pendleton Round-Up*, which had been designated "*Bill Hanley Day*." He received a tremendous standing and cheering ovation from the 25,000 spectators at the close of the round-up. The body was taken to Burns for burial.

Spring and autumn were the main stock shipping seasons from Ontario, particularly the month of June. The shipments were mostly cattle, horses and sheep from the ranges of Malheur and Harney counties. The largest shipper of horses was NG Company. The heaviest shipper of cattle was the LF Company. Other large shippers were Todhunter & Devine, French-Glenn Company and William Hanley, all cattle kings of Harney county. I

knew Bill Hanley and Tommy Davidson, and when I was still a youth saw John Devine and Peter French when they brought cattle to Ontario for shipment.

Ontario was also the largest wool shipping center. Heavy freight wagons, drawing trailers, with wool sacks piled high on both wagons, were brought in. The wagons were drawn by six, eight, ten and sometimes twelve horse teams. The ten and twelve-horse teams were guided by a single "jerk-line" which the driver attached to one of the lead horses. The driver rode a saddled wheel horse. Some jerk-line drivers could handle their ten-horse



Twelve-Horse Team Guided by a Single Jerk-Line Drawing Freight, Freight Wagon with Two Trailers.

teams as easily as ordinary drivers could handle a two-horse wagon. Among the best of the "jerk-line" drivers I saw perform were Oscar Hunter, son of Jason H. Hunter, of Agency valley; and Emmett (Cooney) Johnson, son of Crocker Johnson, of Westfall.

At peak season all of the wool could not be stored in the large warehouses of the Oregon Forwarding Company and Malheur Mercantile Company. Then the big bags would be piled high on the warehouse platform to await the annual sale day. Some sheepmen did not wait for the annual wool sales, but sold any time they were offered a satisfactory price. The freighters would re-load their wagons with merchandise from the Oregon Forwarding Company and Malheur Mercantile Company for the return trip. A month was usually required to make the round trip between Ontario and Burns.

Ira Tuttle, of Salt Lake City, was the first broker for the shippers and superintended the shipping of cattle from Ontario to the eastern market. Later M. K. Parsons, also of Salt Lake City, became a broker for live stock and wool shipments.

There were 673 cars of livestock shipped from Ontario in 1886 and two train-loads of wool. Ten years later, 1896, there were 1,039 cars of livestock, mostly cattle, valued at \$750,000 shipped from the Ontario stock-yards. The next year, 1897, 1,982 cars were shipped. During a period of six weeks in 1899, \$1,500,000 worth of cattle alone was shipped. During the



Three Eight-Horse Teams Guided by Jerk-Line Drawing Wagons and Trailers Loaded with Wool.

six-week shipping season, the average daily shipment of stock was placed at \$25,000, or \$750,000 per month. Two or three train loads were shipped out daily. This is a fair estimate of the yearly stock shipments of that period. The railroad company at times was unable to furnish a sufficient number of cars to handle the shipments, being as many as five hundred cars short at one time.

When there were not sufficient stock cars available cattle would be herded day and night in the immediate vicinity of town until they could be shipped. During these periods many residents were kept awake at night by the bellowing cattle. Ontario was an open town with 24-hour gambling games running in the saloons. The cowboys celebrated their brief stay in town in the usual wild west way—drinking and gambling. But they were

mostly of a jovial carefree nature, and no serious tragedies occurred during their carousals. Occasionally, one of them would ride his horse along the board sidewalks or attempt to ride into the front door of a saloon. The town was unincorporated and without a police force

The "cow-punchers" returned to the interior after shipments were loaded to ride the range until the next shipments were ready.

The O. S. L. railroad company bought eighty acres of land in 1900 at Malheur Junction and the stock yards were moved to their present location on the west side of the track about two miles south of the former site.

The average price of range cattle in 1898-99 was \$20 for yearlings, \$26 for two-year-olds and \$33 for three-year-olds. Alfalfa hay sold for \$4 a ton in the field and \$6 in the stack. As the demand for feed grew greater in later years, the price increased to \$8, \$10, \$15, \$18 and \$20 a ton. In 1897, 35,000 tons of alfalfa hay were produced in Malheur county. That year 20,000 head of cattle, 5,000 head of horses, 50,000 head of sheep and 500 hogs were sold, and 800,000 lbs. of wool was marketed.

Over one-half million pounds of wool were purchased by eastern buyers at the wool sale in Ontario on June 23, 1902. The prices ranged from 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents to 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents per pound; the sales were highly satisfactory to both the purchasers and the sheepmen. The wool was bid in by C. Y. Roberts, Ed McAdams and J. W. Johnson, representing Boston woolen manufacturers.

The Malheur Mercantile Company disposed of 347,142 pounds from their warehouse and the Oregon Forwarding Company 222,300 pounds.

The clips disposed of by the Malheur Mercantile Company belonged to the following sheepmen: Baker Bros., 7,812 pounds; C. W. Henry, 22,900 pounds; King Brown, 10,440; John Cannon, 9,616; Ed Butler, 1,200; M. W. Hart, 14,600; O. S. Smith, 32,000; G. W. Page, 18,147; G. W. Harkness, 46,610; John U. Hoffman, 30,886; James Paul, 38,123; J. D. Jenkins, 40,000; John Wood, 42,000; Armstrong Bros., 22,000.

Oregon Forwarding Company warehouses sold the following clips: Burgess & Kelsey, 49,997 pounds; J. H. Seaward, 60,000; W. J. Scott, 14,730; Moore Bros., 8,761; James Whitten, 15,887; E. H. Crosby, 13,000; T. E. Woodward, 14,132; Jenkins Bros., 46,000.

All but a few small clips of wool in the warehouses were disposed of at the sale. By July 1, 1,000,000 pounds of wool had been received at the two warehouses, which was estimated to be about two-thirds of the year's clip. This was about the average.

During the nine years from 1932 to 1940, according to H. O. Drane, former Ontario station agent, 5,376 cars of livestock were shipped from Malheur county, as follows: Year, 1932, total number of cars, 540; 1933, 378 cars; 1934, 712 cars; 1935, 1,168 cars; 1936, 332 cars; 1937, 426 cars; 1938, 394 cars; 1939, 251 cars; 1940, 895 cars.

The building of the Malheur Valley railroad from Ontario to Vale in

1906 and its extension later through Malheur canyon, with Harper, Juntura and Crane as temporary terminals until the road finally reached Burns, had a deciding effect in reducing stock shipments from Ontario. When the road reached Juntura that town became the main stock shipping point in the county.

With the passing of years the abundant bunch-grass range was gradually reduced, eaten out by over-stocking the country, thereby curtailing range feed. Some stockmen, through necessity, turned their attention to farming. The Taylor grazing act has been beneficial to larger stockmen, but the days of the old West with wide open range has passed into history.

Livestock is still one of the leading industries in the county and Ontario still retains its record of being one of the West's greatest stock-shipping centers. While sheep-growing has gradually declined, cattle-raising continues to increase and cowhands ride the range while beef cattle are fattened in pastures on the low lands in the valleys of the Snake river and its tributary streams.

The Ontario Live Stock Commission maintains the largest and oldest stock-auction market in the Northwest. The commission operates a large auction pavilion and stockyards near the south side of the city. There was 20 per cent more beef cattle marketed in 1940 than in 1920. By 1945 the sales had almost doubled. In 1946 stock sales at the yard were nearly \$1,000,000. The record one-day sale that year totaled \$254,000 by buyers from thirteen states. Most of the beef shipments go to Western packing plants. Spring and early summer horse sales at the commission yards attract dealers from all surrounding states.

CHAPTER 19

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

*There is no friend like an old friend,
Whose life-path mates our own,
Whose dawn and noon, whose eve and night
Have known what we have known.*

—Anonymous.

I have endeavored to give brief biographical sketches of some of the most prominent pioneer citizens in the order in which they first located in the county. Those I mention became permanent citizens about the time the three leading towns in the county—Ontario, Vale and Nyssa—were established. Many of the pioneers were Westerners before locating in the county.

JOHN E. JOHNSON, a native of Munte, Utah, the son of Michael Johnson, a native of Sweden, was born in 1855. The parents were converted to the Mormon faith.

John was married to Miss Minerva Gifford at Monroe, Utah, February 1, 1877. The bride was born in Spring City, Utah, June 7, 1860, the daughter of a Mormon bishop, Moses Gifford. The Johnsons renounced their allegiance to the Mormon faith in 1868. In 1884, they migrated to Eastern Oregon. Six families made up the wagon train, numbering thirty persons, which arrived in Vale in December. Homesteads were immediately taken up on lower Bully creek, about nine miles west of Stone House. Mr. Johnson, a civil engineer, was the first surveyor elected in the county and was re-elected a number of times. His son, J. Edwin Johnson, also served as county surveyor, being re-elected a number of times. John E. Johnson was a warm personal friend of mine. I met him first when he was surveying a county road past the Rutherford place where I was living. He surveyed the first roads for the county. A few years later, I worked with his surveying crew as rodman and chainman on the Owyhee, Wilson and Nevada ditches and, with his crew, walked the full length of these irrigation canals in connection with the work. C. H. Leach, who later married Miss Edna Clement, was a member of the surveying parties and all three of us were close friends.

Mr. Johnson was the chief engineer when the Owyhee ditch was extended to within a few miles of Ontario. He also surveyed the Wilson ditch and re-checked the survey of the Nevada ditch after it was built. He had previously surveyed the JH cattle company ditch above Vale and other irrigation ditches. When the Malheur Valley railroad was built from Ontario to Vale, Mr. Johnson was the chief surveyor and superintendent of construction. He was also city engineer of Vale. His engineering work extended through Malheur, Grant and Harney counties, where he had the supervision of a number of irrigation enterprises. He was one of the early advocates and promoters of the Vale government irrigation project.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Johnson were the parents of five children, three sons and two daughters: J. Edwin, now residing in Vale; Lillian, (deceased) Mrs. C. E. LeMoine; Lawrence, of Medford; Viola, Mrs. John J. Dickerson, of Vale; and Percy, a Portland attorney. Mrs. Johnson died at Rogue River, September 4, 1932, while on a visit to her daughter, Mrs. LeMoine. Mr. Johnson died in Vale on May 15, 1943, at the age of 88. He was the first master and a life long member of the Vale Grange. Funeral services were held from the H. L. Peterson funeral chapel in Vale, under the direction of William Jacobson, master of the Vale grange. The eulogy was delivered by Earle Parker, master of Pomona grange. Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Johnson sleep in the Vale cemetery.

J. EDWIN JOHNSON was born in Monroe, Utah, December 6, 1877. He came to Malheur county with his parents in the emigrant train at the age

of 7 years. He was raised on their homestead nine miles west of Vale on Bully creek, alternating farm work with assisting his father in survey work. In the fall of 1899, with his two sisters, Lillian and Viola, he entered the Oregon Agriculture College at Corvallis, from which institution he graduated on June 17, 1903.

On December 20, 1904, J. Edwin Johnson was married to Miss Lucy Dilley at Corvallis, a classmate, who had graduated with him the preceding June. They have four children: Maxis, a civil engineer with the U. S. Reclamation Service on the Central Valley Project in California; Virgil, a resident civil engineer with the Idaho State Highway Commission at Salmon; Wayne, with the U. S. Reclamation Service at the Anderson ranch dam in Idaho; Edna, the youngest, Mrs. John Anderson, resides in Ontario. The Johnsons have five grandchildren.

When Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were first married they lived for a few years on a farm on Bully creek. Some of his principal engineering work was for the Ontario-Vale railroad, the Pacific Live Stock Company, the Oregon Western Colonization Company and U. S. Reclamation Service.

GEORGE W. PIERCE, another pioneer of that period, located on a homestead six miles west of Vale on the Malheur river in 1883. Mr. Pierce brought his family by train to Paradise, Nevada, in 1874, and nine years later located in the Malheur valley.

The Pierces were the parents of Thadeus W., deceased; Frances, (Mrs. David Coleman), now deceased; Bertha J., (Mrs. W. G. Pennington); Sarah S., (Mrs. David Cathcart); Maratha E., (Mrs. George Kershner); and the youngest child, James.

JAMES F. PIERCE, youngest of the G. W. Pierce children, was born in Platte City, Missouri, January 20, 1875. Mr. Pierce gave these reminiscences of early days in Malheur county to Mrs. Bertha Carter and her daughter, Mrs. Inez Day, who aided in gathering some of the data for this book:

"When I was three months old my parents went from Platte City by train to Paradise, Humboldt county, Nevada, where my father ran a blacksmith shop. We remained there until 1883, when we came by wagon train to this county, known then as Baker county. When we came here the only building in Vale was the Stone House in which R. N. Linebarger ran a grocery store. My father homesteaded a ranch six miles southwest on what is now the east eighty of the N-Bar ranch. We worked for three years on the Farmer's Ditch Company canal. It was the first ditch to be taken out of the Malheur river above Vale; and until it was completed we were unable to raise crops. During our first few years here it was almost impossible to get fresh vegetables, or even groceries. I remember one time we had to go three months without flour.

"With other children I attended school on the Tom Boston ranch, six miles west of Vale. This ranch is now owned by D. A. Clure. Lumber had to be hauled sixty-five miles from the mill of George Whitehead. During this time I stayed with my father helping with the farming as his health had failed. I took a man's place from the time I was fourteen years old.

"I met a young lady, Amy Ashmore, who became my wife at her father's house about ten miles above Vale. She was sixteen and I was twenty-one. Her parents were pioneers, having come across the plains in a covered wagon. To our union four children were born. Cecil died in childhood; Dwight is manager of

the Peterson Furniture store in Vale; Guy is working in an electric lighting plant in Minneapolis; and Lester is a painter in Ontario.

"During the time Vale was developing, and the county seat was established, I donated both money and labor for the court house built of native stone, which is still standing. Hope Bros. started the first big store in Vale. Hotels and stores did a big business in trade for the interior. Businessmen freighted in supplies from Ontario and Huntington, and settlers from the interior freighted the supplies on to their homes, by horse and mule teams.

"The years have brought many changes, and most noticeable to some of the old timers is the present lack of hospitality, even in the most out-of-way places. Not so many years ago, no one, friend or stranger, left the home of a country dweller near meal time without an invitation to stay and eat, or spend the night. We never used to lock houses when leaving for a few hours or a few days, and nothing was ever disturbed. Ah, well, times change, and we old timers still maintain that the old times were the best."

WILLIAM SCOTT LAWRENCE, son of Jonathan Lawrence, was born in Mississippi, November 9, 1848. His American ancestry dates back to colonial times. His great-grandfather fought with the Yankees in the Revolutionary War and his grandfather was an American veteran of the War of 1812. W. S. Lawrence and his father both fought in the Civil War for the Southern cause; the former was only sixteen years old when he joined the army. After the war he went to Arkansas. He was married in Washington county, Arkansas, in 1871, to Miss Mary D. Elms. To them two children were born, James E. and Martha. Mr. Lawrence with his family, accompanied by Mrs. Lawrence's nephew, H. C. Elms, joined a wagon train bound for Oregon in 1880. They first located near Baker City. After Malheur county was formed, Mr. Lawrence, a democrat, was chosen assessor in the first county election in June, 1888.

For many years W. S. Lawrence was a resident of Ironside. In later years he resided at Vale and then located in the Big Bend section. For almost half a century he was a prominent citizen of the county. After the death of his wife he married a second time and became the father of two children by the second wife. About 1930, he moved to Santa Maria, California, where he died November 16, 1934, at the age of 86. He was survived by four children. Wayne Lawrence was killed in an automobile accident near Santa Maria in July, 1947.

JAMES E. LAWRENCE, son of W. S. Lawrence, was born in Washington county, Arkansas, November 11, 1873. At the age of six years he came overland in a wagon train with his parents. He was appointed deputy sheriff by Sheriff Julian D. Locey, in 1898. James and Miss Louise Rose, of Ironside, daughter of J. H. and Louise Rose, were united in marriage September 21, 1898. Following the death of Sheriff J. D. Locey in June, 1901, Lawrence was appointed his successor, and thereby gained the distinction of being the state's youngest sheriff. In 1902, Mr. Lawrence was nominated for sheriff on the democratic ticket and was elected over his republican opponent, A. L. Sproul, and in 1904, was re-elected over Clarence Howard.

Mrs. Lawrence died in Vale in July, 1907. In January, 1913, Mr. Lawrence married Mrs. Ellen Brown Welch, of Ontario, and shortly there-

after they went to Baker to reside when Mr. Lawrence became a member of the *Baker Production Credit Association*, with which company he is still affiliated.

HENRY C. ELMS was born in Washington county, Arkansas, April 20, 1859. H. C. Elms accompanied his aunt, Mrs. W. S. Lawrence and her husband and children to Baker. He later moved to Ironside. Henry C. Elms and Miss Fanny A. Carlile were married December 27, 1881. She was the daughter of James K. and Evalin Carlile and was a native of Eugene. The Elms were the parents of five children, all of whom are married. Charles E., born February 26, 1886, resides at Haines, Oregon. Myrtle C., (Mrs. Walter Hinton) born March 8, 1888, makes her home in Boise. The second daughter, Onie C., (Mrs. Floyd White) resides at Ironside. The youngest daughter, Bertha A., (Mrs. Charles Houser) born July 27, 1895, resides in Baker. The youngest of the family, H. Frank, born January 7, 1898, makes his home at Unity.

For over sixty years Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Elms enjoyed a happy married life. On Friday, July 30, 1943, Mrs. Elms was summoned by death, after a lingering illness, at the age of 76 years. For many years Mr. Elms, now 90 years of age, has engaged in the mercantile business at Ironside and is one of the most prominent citizens of that locality. Mr. Elms was the democratic candidate for the legislature in the second county election in 1890, losing by the small margin of 85 votes to the republican candidate, T. B. Littig. Mr. Elms is the oldest pioneer in the county since the death of Mrs. Louisa E. Jones.

JAMES K. CARLILE was born in Washington county, Arkansas, in 1829, and crossed the plains to Western Oregon in early days. In Eugene, he married Mrs. Evalin Blachley, a native of that city. They were the parents of Morgan; Fanny A., (Mrs. H. C. Elms); Olive, (Mrs. William Morfitt, Jr.); and Elizabeth, widow of William Morfitt, Sr. The Carliles came to the Ironside locality in the early Eighties and were among the prominent dwellers of that section for many years. Mr. Carlile engaged in farming and stock raising. Mrs. Carlile met with an accidental death in 1886. James K. Carlile died at Ironside March 5, 1906.

MORGAN C. CARLILE, a native of Eugene, came with his parents to Ironside in 1882 where he farmed and raised stock. His first wife was Alice May, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ricker, another prominent pioneer couple who first located at Ironside in 1885 and moved to the Malheur above Vale in 1897. Mr. Carlile brought his family to Ontario in 1912 and for a time was in the employ of the Malheur Mercantile Co. Later he served as deputy assessor under D. P. Dearborn and was elected assessor on the democratic ticket. His oldest daughter, Clara, married Murray R. Morton. Mr. Morton was a deputy assessor under his father-in-law and later was chosen assessor. Some years after the death of his wife, Mr. Carlile mar-

ried Mrs. Annie Jackson, daughter of the prominent pioneer, Frank O'Neil.

JAMES T. CLEMENT, the first county judge elected in Malheur county, was born in Jackson county, Michigan, May 31, 1840, the son of Theophilus and Cleora Webster Clement. His mother was a second cousin of the distinguished American statesman, Daniel Webster. Judge Clement was educated in the common schools of his native state. On October 24, 1860, he was united in marriage to Miss Lucy E. Hayes, daughter of Eli and Anna Hayes, a native of Ohio. To them four children were born: Roswell W., J. Buell, Hattie and Edna. After his marriage, Mr. Clement farmed in Michigan for seven years. In 1867, he moved to Mitchell county, Iowa, and two years later they moved to Lancaster county, Nebraska, traveling by team and wagon. Two years later, 1881, they came with an emigrant train to Idaho and the Clement family located in Washoe. The eldest daughter, Hattie L., had married Richard Waters. After a short residence in Washoe, the Waters went on to Waterville, Washington.

Judge Clement and other members of the wagon train were on their way to the Willamette valley. He stopped at a ranch in Washoe where a man was digging potatoes that the judge said "looked to be as big as cord wood." He stopped his teams just as they were preparing to cross the Washoe ferry. He turned back and traded a mule for the place and the family lived there until 1884 when they came to Ontario. Other members of the emigrant party, including Stillman Mack, his nephew and niece, Harry and Helen Plummer, Mrs. Alice Conley and daughter, Villa, went on to Western Oregon, but later returned. Stillman Mack settled in Washoe.

Buell Clement, second son of J. T. Clement, and Miss Helen M. Plummer married soon after she returned with her uncle and brother from the Willamette valley. She was the senior child of Fredrick and Jane Crawford Plummer, and was born at Glenn, Michigan, September 9, 1856. Her mother died when she was nine years old and she was reared by her Grandmother Crawford. With her great uncle and her brother she went to Kansas in 1880. They left there in 1881 in a covered wagon train for Oregon. On the Platte river they met the Clement wagon train and the trains consolidated.

Mrs. James T. Clement died at the family home in Washoe in February, 1884, and in September of that year Judge Clement moved to Ontario where with Robert Strayhorn he opened the first lumber yard. Mr. Clement's sister, Mrs. Phynn Van Ness, widow of a Civil War veteran, came from the east to keep house for her brother and his daughter, Edna. On December 5, 1884, J. T. Clement contracted a second marriage with Mrs. Emma Hall, of Layton, Michigan.

Judge J. T. Clement was Ontario's first justice of the peace. He was the first county judge, elected in 1888, for a term of four years. His youngest daughter, Edna, married C. H. Leach. They were the parents of a daughter, Teressa, who married Dell Stoner, now deceased. Edna Leach's second

husband was D. C. Boyd. They were the parents of a son, James. Teresa Stoner and her half-brother, James, reside at Longview, Washington, where their mother died. Both C. H. Leach and D. C. Boyd are deceased.

ROSWELL W. CLEMENT, as a boy of nineteen, drove one of his father's teams the entire distance from Lincoln, Nebraska, to the Payette valley in 1881. Ross Clement was married to Miss Harriet Neil, a daughter of John and Mollisa Neil, September 11, 1884. She was born in Denver, Colorado. Mr. Clement secured a 160-acre farm southwest of the grange hall near Cairo in 1895, which he improved and where the family resided for a number of years. After selling the place they moved to San Diego. Some years later they returned to the Boise valley and located near Middleton.

Four children were born to them: Martha Ethel, (Mrs. Harry McCarthy); James R., Walter and J. Buell Clement.

J. BUELL CLEMENT, second son of J. T. Clement, and Miss Helen M. Plummer were married at Falk's store in February, 1883. After their marriage they located on a homestead near the Snake river, east of Arcadia. They were the parents of five children: Harry B., recently deceased; Holden B., of Council, Idaho; Mrs. Winnifred Wisdom, of Ontario; Mrs. Rene Schweizer, deceased; Hugh C., of Cedar Edge, Colorado. J. Buell Clement died at his home in the Valley View settlement on March 21, 1895. His widow carried on the farm work until the children grew up and took over. Just forty years after her husband's death, Mrs. Helen May Clement died in Nampa hospital, and was brought back to Ontario and laid to rest beside her husband in the Evergreen cemetery.

HARRY BUELL CLEMENT, recently deceased, became the most prominent of the descendants of his grand father, Judge J. T. Clement. Harry was born in Washoe, Idaho, about two miles from Ontario, on January 27, 1884. At the age of sixteen Harry returned to Fennville, Michigan, the former home of his parents to attend high school.

H. B. Clement launched on a career to become a "globe-trotter," when he entered the U. S. postal service as a railway mail clerk in 1905, at the age of twenty-one. In that capacity he visited Alaska, Canada, many Pacific coast points and the Orient. His first two mail routes from 1905 to 1916, were between Portland and Dunsmuir, then from Portland to Pocatello. He became one of the first railway mail clerks to operate on the Ontario-Riverside-Crane branch line. After that he transferred to the Seattle-Manila Sea Post, operating between the mainland, the Philippines and Japan by way of Hawaii, during 1922-23-24. He changed to the Seattle-Alaska sea run, handling mail on that route until 1931, after which he transferred back to the Ontario-Burns rail mail service. After a continuous United States railway postal service record of 35 years, Mr. Clement retired January 1, 1945, having attained the age limit of 60 years. For awhile the family resided in Baker after which they returned to their Valley View farm near Ontario.

Harry B. Clement and Miss Bessie White, of Portland, were united in marriage April 1, 1913. They are the parents of a son, Stillman Clement, a veteran of World War II, who saw overseas service.

Ill health for a number of years made Mr. and Mrs. Clement spend the winters in a milder climate, including one year on the west coast of Mexico. On December 17, 1948, they went to Ocean Park, California, to reside for the winter with Mrs. Clement's sister, Mrs. Nell Leavitt. There he died suddenly from a heart attack on January 11, 1949. Mr. Clement was active in Masonic circles. He was a Past Master of Acacia Lodge No. 118, Past Patron of Eastern Star Chapter 69, and a High Priest of Zadoc Royal Arch Masons, Ontario; Baker Council R. and S. M., Al Kader Temple, Portland. The remains were returned to Ontario and funeral services were conducted from Beechler Memorial Chapel by Rev. C. L. Callahan, of the Episcopal church, of which he had been a member, and graveside services were conducted in Evergreen cemetery by Acacia Lodge.

Harry B. Clement's sister, Mrs. Winnifred Wisdom—a native daughter of the county—is the widow of Everett A. Wisdom, the pioneer painter. They are the parents of a son, Julian Wisdom, who saw service overseas in World War II. E. A. Wisdom, a native of Missouri, came with his mother and stepfather, D. T. Downs, to Weiser in 1889, and to Payette the following year. In 1895, the family came to Ontario. Mrs. Mary A. Downs died near Ontario April 12, 1948. D. T. Downs preceded his wife in death by several years.

DANIEL R. EHRGOOD—one of the pioneer settlers in the Nyssa neighborhood—was born in Berks, Pennsylvania, January 25, 1885, the son of Abraham and Susan Ehrgood. At the age of 22, Dan left the parental roof and went to Indiana and later to Texas. There, on June 22, 1880, he and Miss Sarah Jane Erwin, a native daughter, were joined in wedlock. Mr. Ehrgood farmed in that state until the spring of 1884, then with his wife and daughter, Elizabeth, he made the trip across the country by mule team to the lower Owyhee. The next fall he located a 160-acre homestead, part of which now embraces the city of Nyssa. Dan Ehrgood was the first mayor of Nyssa. He and his wife both rest in the Nyssa cemetery. Their only daughter was married April 11, 1899, to Neil Moorehead, a native of Lynn county.

GILBERT L. KING was born in Watertown, New York, February 10, 1848, the son of Lorenzo D. and Julia Ann King. He was said to be able to trace his ancestry back to the Mayflower. The family moved to Dodge county, Wisconsin, where he received his primary education. He enlisted at the age of 16 in Company G, Third Wisconsin Infantry, as a substitute for an older brother, who had been drafted. G. L. King's regiment was part of the 20th Army Corps under General "Fighting Joe" Hooker, attached to General W. T. Sherman's army. Judge King was in the battle of Resaca

and several other skirmishes, in one of which he was wounded in the leg. After taking part in the siege of Atlanta, Georgia, he accompanied General Sherman's command on the famous march to the sea. He was honorably discharged at the close of the war and returned to his Wisconsin home. From there he went to Mason county, Illinois, where he taught school until 1869. He then moved to Webster City, Iowa, where he engaged in the grocery business. Disposing of his store in 1870 he entered the state normal school at Bloomington, Illinois, where he took a two-year course, specializing in teaching and telegraphy. After teaching school in Lane county, Illinois, from 1872 to 1874 he went to Omaha, and entered the employ of the Union Pacific railway company as a telegraph operator.

At Grand Island, Nebraska, on September 14, 1875, Gilbert L. King and Miss Malinda Isabelle Easton were married. Mr. King followed the U. P. railroad in the capacity of telegraph operator and station agent at various points along the line as the road built westward until he came to Soda Springs, in 1884. He was transferred to Ontario in 1885 as the first station agent in this city. His family, consisting of his wife and three sons, Edward L., Arthur S. and Ira N., joined him later.

For twelve years, from 1885 to 1897, he was Ontario's railroad station agent. In the meantime he became a stockholder in the Nevada and Owyhee ditch companies, helping to organize both, and was the first secretary of both companies, which capacities he held until his death. In 1897, Judge King resigned as station agent and engaged in the insurance and real estate business. He was elected justice of the peace, for a time was agent for the Ontario-Burns stage company. He was the "silver" republican candidate for representative in the legislature in 1898, but was defeated by J. R. Blackaby, the democratic candidate. However, he was elected representative in 1906 over Robert Van Gilse, the democratic candidate.

Mrs. Malinda King was called by death on May 7, 1913. In 1917, Mr. King married Mrs. Edna Gaylord in Kansas City Missouri. His second wife died in Ontario in 1927. Judge King's long and busy life came to a close on the morning of August 4, 1932, at the age of 84 years and 6 months. He was the last survivor of the Grand Army Post of Ontario, of which he was a charter member. The Spanish War veterans had charge of his funeral services at the Congregational church, of which he had been one of the builders. The Masonic rites were read at the graveside in Evergreen cemetery by William M. Walker, acting master of Acacia Lodge, of which the deceased was also a charter member. Ontario Post 67, Veterans of Foreign Wars, firing squad gave the farewell salute. For nearly half a century Judge King was a part of the business and public life of Ontario. He was survived by five of his six children: Edward L. and Arthur S., both of Ontario; Mrs. Edna Arnold, of Portland; Mrs. Alice Huston, of Ukiah, Oregon; and Homer G. King, a farmer residing near Cairo. The third son,

Ira L. King, died in January, 1932. Art S. King, a prominent farmer of the Cairo vicinity, died November 10, 1947.

EDGAR H. TEST, first county clerk of Malheur county, who held many public and business positions with honor, was born near Altoona, Pennsylvania, September 4, 1860. He came west to Ogden, Utah, at the age of 23, where he was employed in the mercantile establishment of Fred J. Keisel, and was later manager of a branch store for Keisel at Hailey, Idaho. Mr. Test came to Ontario in March, 1885, to assume management of the general store of W. L. Geary & Co., in which Mr. Keisel was interested.

Test married Miss Rosalee Jones, a native of Kentucky, on October 1, 1886. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Jones, who lived near Dell on lower Willow creek. Mr. Test was appointed County Clerk in 1887 when Malheur county was established, by Governor Sylvester Penoyer. The family moved to Vale. At the first general election held in the county in June, 1888, Test was elected to the office on the democratic ticket, and re-elected in 1890 and again in 1892. In 1894, he received the democratic nomination for state senator from Malheur and Baker counties but declined to run. After serving as county clerk, Mr. Test with his wife and two sons, Harvey J. and James Owen, and daughter Ruth, returned to Ontario to assume management of the Oregon Forwarding Company.

As manager of the Oregon Forwarding Company, Mr. Test instituted a banking system wherein stockmen deposited funds, and thereby became the first banker in the county. When the City of Ontario was incorporated in 1899, Mr. Test was chosen the first mayor. In 1901, he severed his connection with the Oregon Forwarding Company and became associated with M. Alexander and others in organizing the First National Bank of Ontario and was the first cashier. Mr. Test was active in civic affairs and served as president of the Owyhee Ditch Company and the Malheur Drainage District. About 1902, with his brother-in-law, Thomas Jones and others, he promoted what was known as the High Line Ditch Company, which, had the plan succeeded, would have supplied water for all the land that later came under the Owyhee government irrigation system. Test was elected county judge in 1918 and under his administration the county's extensive road building program took place.

Mrs. Test died in 1930. Their only daughter, Ruth, had preceded her in death a number of years. Judge Test was appointed Ontario's city recorder and police magistrate in 1937 and was three times re-appointed under different mayors. He was serving in this capacity at the time of his death August 17, 1934.

For nearly half a century Judge Test served the people of Malheur county in official and business capacities, and was one of the leading and best known citizens. He never met defeat as a candidate for public office before the voters, which fact attests to his popularity where he was best

known. He is survived by three sons, Harvey H., J. Owen, and Fred J. Test.

DANIEL B. PURCELL was born near Alba, Missouri, January 8, 1858. His father, whom I remember quite well, was for many years a justice of the peace. During the Civil War, Southwest Missouri was a hotbed of strife between opposing factions. Judge Purcell's sympathy was with the Northern cause and he had some thrilling experiences. For his own safety he was compelled to hide in the timber day and night, but succeeded in keeping in touch with his family.

Dan Purcell grew to manhood on his father's farm near Alba and learned the carpenter trade from his father and two of his older brothers, Ben and James. Dan B. Purcell and Miss Elizabeth Draper, a native of Iowa, were united in marriage in 1881. She was a daughter of Jesse F. and Naoma Draper. Three years after their marriage, in 1884, with their daughter, Iva, they came by train to Washoe. The railroad had but recently been built through the valley and there was no depot in either Ontario or Payette. They got off the train at a sidetrack in Washoe near the home of Mrs. Purcell's sister, Mrs. Jacob Stroup. Mr. Purcell built a dwelling for J. T. Clement in Ontario on the corner now occupied by the H. L. Peterson Furniture Co. This was the third dwelling built in Ontario and was erected in 1884.

Mr. Purcell located on a homestead about four miles west of Ontario in 1885. In 1887, with his brothers-in-law, J. A. Draper and W. J. Mink, he constructed the two-story frame building for O. W. Scott just south of the Railroad Hotel. The upper story of this building was occupied by the Odd Fellows Lodge, the first fraternal society established in Ontario. The next year Dan abandoned his homestead and moved his family into town. Except for a brief residence in Payette about 1891, he was a continuous resident of Ontario. Mr. Purcell constructed many of the first business and residential buildings in the city. Later he became associated with J. M. Babcock in the lumber business and with D. P. Dearborn as a building contractor.

Mr. Purcell took great interest in public and fraternal activities and was a member of the city council in pioneer days. He was a charter member of Armor Lodge No. 69, Knights of Pythias; was an active member of Acacia Lodge A. F. & A. M., having held every office in the Masonic Lodge, being elected twice as Worthy Master and served as High Priest of Zodiac Chapter of R. A. M. Mrs. Purcell too, was quite active in the Pythian Sisters, Eastern Star and Rebecca fraternal orders.

Mrs. Lizzie Purcell died in the city in 1925. D. B. Purcell was 80 years old at the time he passed away in Ontario on January 31, 1938. This worthy couple rest in Evergreen cemetery. Seven children were born to them, all of whom survive. They are Mrs. Iva Madden, widow of John H. Madden, living in Cascade, Idaho; Mrs. Nell Morfitt, widow of the late Frank Mor-

fitt, of Ontario and New Plymouth; Mrs. Winnie Divin, wife of James I. Divin, of Ontario; Mrs. Ruth Goode, of Cascade; Earl B. Purcell, of Roseville, California; Dewey Purcell, of Kelso, Washington; and James Purcell, of Portland.

JOHN A. DRAPER, "Kelles," by which name he is more familiarly known, was born in Hanford, Iowa, in 1857, the son of Jesse F. and Naoma Johnson Draper. His father was a native of Indiana and his mother was born of Quaker parentage in Iowa. When a small boy his parents moved to Alba, Missouri, where he grew to manhood. When about 21 years old, he went by train to Kelton, Utah, and in company with another young man from Iowa on his way to Walla Walla, walked from Kelton to Washoe, Idaho, where his sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Stroup had located in 1873. Kelles was driving an ox team in a wagon train for Neil Bros., hauling freight between Kelton and Boise, in 1878, when the Bannocks went on the warpath. At the Glenn's ferry crossing on the Snake river they came upon the smouldering ruins of freight wagons that had been burned by the Indians. The Neil teamsters had to remove the debris caused by the destruction of the burned wagons before they could get through the cut leading to the ferry. The Indians had cut the ferry boat loose and the teamsters found they had to go down the river to Payne's ferry before they could cross. That fall, Mr. Draper returned to his Missouri home. On July 18, 1883, he was married to Miss Hattie B. Ingersoll at Carthage, Missouri. In the spring of 1885, with his wife and infant son, Paul, he came to Idaho and located in Washoe bottom. In the summer of 1885 he settled on a homestead four miles southwest of Ontario, which he vacated in 1888, and moved to Ontario. Mr. Draper, a carpenter and building contractor, worked on most of the first buildings erected in Ontario and other localities in the county, including Vale, Jonesboro, Willow Creek and White Settlement. He was one of Ontario's early day councilmen.

After a residence of about thirty-five years in Ontario, the Drapers went to Santa Rosa, California, in 1920, where they have since resided. On July 18, 1948, Mr. and Mrs. Draper celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary. The Drapers were the parents of the following children: Paul, who died in childhood while they were living in Ontario; John and Bert, who grew to manhood and learned the carpenter trade, both died in California; and Mrs. Ina Draper DeFoe Greathead, a poetess of some note, who resides with her second husband in Santa Rosa. They were married in 1944. Frank Greathead, a civil engineer, is employed by the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. During the second World War he served with the Sea-Bees.

CHAPTER 20

ONTARIO THE METROPOLIS

There are no times like the old times—

They shall never be forgot!

There is no place like the old place—

Keep green the dear old spot.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

From the time of its founding, Ontario has been the metropolis of Malheur county. The federal census of 1900 gave the population as 445. By July, 1902, it had increased to 700. From that period to 1910 the increase in population was barely noticeable. During the next decade, to 1920, the increase was less than four per cent. In 1930, according to the census bureau, the population of the city almost doubled when the 1940 census placed the total number of citizens at 3,551, an increase of 1,610 during the preceding ten years. The growth of the city during the past ten years has been around 100 per cent. In 1947, the population was estimated to be 5,000, and a commercial club forecaster predicted that the 1950 U. S. census will reveal a citizenship of approximately 7,500.

When I came in 1886, the population of the town was about fifty. The business transacted by the two general stores was more than double the trade of any ordinary town of that size. Supplies for the interior for more than 150 miles inland were hauled by freight teams from Ontario, which was the railroad center for Malheur and Harney counties.

O. W. Scott built a small store building adjoining his saloon into which Duffy Bros. moved the drug store. A man named Williams opened a saloon in the building the Duffys had vacated in the block south of the Railroad Hotel. The night of my arrival in Ontario, March 19, 1886, Henry Dickinson, generally known as "Dutch Henry," was killed in the Williams saloon by Tony Lowe. Lowe was a nephew of William Jones, the prominent stockman. Dickinson was a sheepherder for Jones and Lowe was the camp tender for his uncle. The tragedy was the culmination of a feud that had originated on the range. Lowe tried to avoid him but the sheepherder followed the camp-tender from one saloon to another and finally cornered him in the Williams saloon. In an attempt to get away, Lowe shot out the

lights of a hanging lamp and tried to escape in the darkness, and then shot Dickinson when the shepherd attempted to grapple with him. A knife was found in possession of the dead man. Lowe's shots were almost fatal to two men. The saloon keeper collapsed from a heart attack. Williams closed his saloon not long after and left town. Lowe was acquitted as the evidence indicated he acted in self defense. It is from the record date of this fatal tragedy that I have been able to remember the date I came to Oregon. This was the second death to occur in Ontario.

John Lockhart was killed about a year later by J. A. Morton on Morton Island, in a dispute over land on the island. John Lockhart, who had recently come to the community, was a brother of William Lockhart, who had settled on a homestead near the Morton place. Morton was hauling hay from the island to his barn on the mainland when he was accosted by Lockhart, armed with a gun. Morton shot Lockhart while seated atop a load of hay. The trouble arose when Lockhart attempted to jump Morton's island claim. Morton was acquitted when it was established that Lockhart had been the aggressor in every way.

I came to Oregon for my health. That the new country I came to was extremely healthy is evidenced by the fact there were only three graves in the Ontario cemetery for at least four years after the town was founded. All three occupants of these graves had died with their boots on. The first was Joe Durr, the blacksmith, found dead from a sudden heart attack in 1884; Henry Dickinson, killed in 1886; and John Lockhart, killed in 1887.

The first Fourth of July celebration in Ontario took place in 1886. Judge J. T. Clement, marshal of the day, mounted on horseback, followed by Ed Hulery and John Blanton, dressed in jockey suits mounted on race horses, leading the rest of the procession. There were no buildings in the block across Oregon street east of the Railroad Hotel. Between where the Carter House now stands and the railroad track an arbor was built of willow boughs, covered with sage brush, to shade the rostrum where the patriotic program took place. There were no trees to furnish shade for the audience. J. T. Clement presided as master of ceremonies and led the singing of patriotic airs and the musical program. G. L. King read the Declaration of Independence and delivered at short patriotic address.

Following the patriotic program the celebration closed with a dance on the pavilion that started in the afternoon and lasted until "the wee small hours of the morning."

The American flag for this first Fourth of July celebration was made by Mrs. O. W. Scott, Mrs. William Morfitt, Mrs. Helen Clement and Miss Ellen O'Brien. Not long after the celebration Miss Ellen O'Brien married Dennis Dyer, a prominent pioneer stockman. They were the parents of Joseph E. Dyer, the well-known present-day banker. Mrs. Ellen Dyer was born in Limmerick, Ireland, July 29, 1852. She came to Oregon to reside

with her brother, William O'Brien, and took up a homestead near the mouth of the Malheur. She died at the home of her son, J. E. Dyer, May 30, 1937, at the age of 84.

It has been said that the business portior of Ontario is built on a sand hill. That is true to some extent. There were rather large sand dunes west of the Scott hotel and the Duffy drug store, later known as the Boyer building, and near the railroad, back of where the Wilson building now stands. The unpaved streets were deep in sand. During heavy sand storms—aptly termed “Eastern Oregon rains”—it was very difficult to see across the streets.



This quotation is taken from Mrs. Dottie Crumett Edwards' column that appeared in the *Ontario Argus* of March 19, 1931:

"The first picture brought to us, which is evidently one of Ontario's first buildings, if not the first (we'll have to consult our pioneer story,) is of the 'Railroad Hotel,' a two-story frame building put up in the early Eighties by O. W. Scott on the site where the Hager Hardware now stands. The 'city' roundabout is absolutely barren of vegetation, with wheel marks in the sand in front of the hotel that appears hub deep. No other buildings are in view in the picture.

"The hotel has a double deck porch, both elevations of which are occupied by a number of somber-coated men in the black coats and straight brimmed hats of the early Eighties, with a few women in the tight-fitting basques and full skirts of the same period.

"The building housed, in addition to the hotel, a saloon, postoffice, restaurant, while an ice-house adjoins. The owner, O. W. Scott, came here with his wife about 1880 and built the building, which burned down about 1890. Mr. Scott died here in 1889 and is buried in the Ontario cemetery.

"His grandson, F. F. Scott, who has a ranch on the Payette river, brought the picture to us."

(The man on crutches, standing on the lower porch in front of the hotel, is O. W. Scott. Mrs. Scott is in front of the postoffice. Mrs. F. M. Vines is one of the ladies on the upper deck of the hotel. The "pioneer story" mentioned by Mrs. Edwards was written by this author and published in the *Argus* in 1930-31.—J.R.G.)

In the autumn of 1886, Dr. M. M. Hopkins, a native of Illinois, and the first physician to settle in Ontario, bought the J. M. Duffy drug store. Mr. Duffy went to Huntington and opened the first drug store there. The Duffys still owned the building in Ontario which they continued to rent until 1896 when they sold the property to A. F. Boyer, a recent arrival from Anacortes, Washington. In February of that year, Boyer Bros. opened their first store in Ontario and thereafter the structure was known as the Boyer building.

Dr. Hopkins did not remain in Ontario long. He sold the drug store—then in the Scott building—to Dr. Bussy. One of Dr. Hopkins brothers, a lawyer, was a prominent congressman from Illinois. Another brother was a minister. I heard Dr. Hopkins joke that it would take both the preacher and the lawyer to get the doctor to heaven.

Joseph M. Duffy was a native of West Virginia. At the start of the Civil War he enlisted for the Northern cause in the West Virginia Seventh Cavalry and served under General McClellan. He went to Pike's Peak in 1866 and later to the Black Hills in search of gold. At Macon, Missouri, in 1875 he was married to Miss Ella M. Smith. J. M. Duffy was associated with his brother, Isaac, in drug stores in Indianola, Hagerman and Plum Creek, Nebraska, during the building of the Burlington railroad. They also conducted stores at Sterling, Colorado, and Montpelier, Idaho.

Deciding to go into the cattle business in 1884, the Duffys located on the lower Owyhee near Mitchell butte and bought the Triangle-H brand from Sam Hess and Charles Patton. Mrs. Duffy and the two children came by train to Caldwell, the western most station on the O. S. L. at that time. The railroad bridge at Nyssa was under construction. The Owyhee settlers crossed the Snake river at Riverside ferry to do their trading at Parma where a mercantile store was run by Albert Fouch.

During the winter of 1884-85 snow fell to a depth of five feet in the Owyhee breaks and the Duffys lost many cattle. Deer, lynx and other wild animals drifted down into the valley for feed. Among other stockmen of the Owyhee locality were "Seven-up" Smith, Charles McDowell, Ike Almstead; ranchers were Charles Wilson, Alex Mathison, Sam Hobson, D. M. Rigby. Rigby, although not a doctor, understood some about medicine, attended to the sick and extracted teeth for the settlers.

Malheur was a part of Baker county and the Vale Stone House was the voting place for most of this part of the county. Mr. Duffy took his family with him when he went to Vale to vote in 1884 and remained there three days. An all night dance was held in the upper story of the Stone House on election night. Many people brought tents with them which they pitched along the river.

After moving to Huntington, J. M. Duffy was elected that town's first mayor and later county commissioner on the republican ticket. On April 2, 1896, Mr. Duffy was summoned by death. After his death his son, Harry

A. Duffy, took over the drug store. The daughter, Jessie M., married Dr. Jacob B. White. H. M. Duffy served as mayor and councilman of Huntington. He later moved to Portland and now resides with his family in San Jose, California, where he is a consultant chemist, associated with the Morehead-Fleming Drug Company, manufacturing, analytical and distributing chemists. Harry was one of my school mates when we attended school in Ontario. In a recent letter, Harry wrote:

"Do you remember the time you wrote on current events of the town and read it in school? You said Postmaster Scott's dog jumped through a window and the old man said, 'It gave me a damned bad cold.' The teacher called you down, but you insisted you were quoting the old man's exact words."

After the death of Joseph Duffy, his wife and daughter, Mrs. Jessie M. Temple, went to San Diego, California, where Isaac Duffy was residing. There Jessie follows her chosen profession of teaching piano. Her mother and uncle passed away about ten years ago.

Ontario Odd Fellows Lodge No. 90, the first fraternal order in the city, was instituted August 26, 1887, in the upper story of the two-story Scott building that stood on the corner south of the Railroad Hotel. (See cut). A stairway between the two buildings led to the lodge hall and second story of the hotel. Charter members of the I.O.O.F. lodge were Dr. M. M. Hopkins, Geo. W. Brinnon, W. E. Hulery, Robert Visel. Visel was the second blacksmith to locate in Ontario, after the death of Joe Durr.

O. W. Scott, who had recently undergone the amputation of one of his limbs below the knee, leased the hotel and saloon to his eldest son, W. J. Scott. Postmaster Scott moved the postoffice from the hotel lobby to the lower floor of the lodge building and put in a confectionery store. He and his wife occupied the rear apartment. Harry Titus came from Kansas to tend bar for his brother-in-law, W. J. Scott. F. M. Vines became associated with W. E. Hulery in the saloon at the northeast corner of the same block. Charles C. Crawford, who came with "Doc" Brown and Doug Murray from Kansas in 1886, was a bartender in the Scott saloon until his death.

Because of ill health, O. W. Scott resigned as postmaster and O. H. P. Krise was named to the position. After the death of his wife, the mother of William J. and Frank, he married a widow, Mrs. Callie Vines. After her husband's death, Mrs. Scott, whose maiden name was Catherine Buster, returned to California to live with a daughter. Some time later she returned to this county and made her home with her son, F. M. Vines and family. She died a number of years ago and rests beside her husband in Evergreen cemetery.

Ontario's second postmaster, Perry Krise, was a Union veteran of the Civil War, and bore a bad scar from a face wound he received in battle. Part of his nose had been shot away. He was a widower with two grown children, Charlie and Elva. The daughter, Elva, as assistant postmaster, attended to all of the postoffice business. After her marriage to Ivan Oakes, of Cald-

well, Holden T. Husted took over the position of postmaster and the confectionery store. Mr. Husted had come from Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1887, about the time E. A. Fraser arrived from his birthplace in Woodstock, Canada. Both soon went to work for Shilling & Danilson.

Not long after Fred J. Kiesel purchased the interest of Captain Geary in the general store of W. L. Geary & Co., that firm was consolidated with Shilling & Danilson under the firm name of Kiesel, Shilling & Danilson, with T. T. Danilson, manager, and E. A. Fraser, bookkeeper and assistant manager. The K. S. & D. Co. moved their store to a larger building near the railroad track close to the present site of the Ontario Wholesale Grocery Company.

When the K. S. & D. Co. established a branch store in Vale, Mr. Fraser went there as manager. He returned to Ontario to assume management of the main store, when Mr. Danilson went to Arcadia, and H. T. Husted went to Vale to take charge of branch stores. Sanford N. Emison, after completing a business course in the Willamette University at Salem, was employed by the firm in Ontario and gained practical knowledge and experience before opening Emison Bros. store at Nyssa. E. A. Fraser remained with Kiesel, Shilling & Danilson until Kiesel became the sole owner, when E. H. Test returned from Vale to take over management changed the name to the Oregon Forwarding Co. A brick building was erected on Main Street into which the store was moved and the large warehouse it had occupied was turned into a freight house for the Oregon Forwarding Co.

J. M. Blanton opened a meat market in 1887 in the small building about half way between the Scott property and Hulery saloon, where William Lockhart had conducted the first butchershop in town. That fall this building became the home of *The Atlas*, first newspaper established in the town and county. R. S. Rutherford, in 1887, erected a two-story hotel building adjoining this small shop on the north. After Blanton closed his meat market, Frank Davis and H. W. Clement opened the third meat market in a small building north of the Morfitt store building on the east side of Main Street. H. W. Clement was no relation to J. T. Clement. Frank Davis, a native Oregonian and pioneer resident of this locality since 1881, first came to the Snake river valley in 1874. He died in Ontario February 9, 1948, at the age of 82 years. Survivors are his widow, Mrs. Lenora Davis and four children by his former wife, Mrs. Villa Conley Davis. They are Conley Davis, of Fruitland; Mrs. H. H. Williams, of Klamath Falls; Miss Alta Davis and Mrs. M. E. Coe of Salem. Frank Davis was a great-grandson of Mary Stewart, for whom the town of Marysville, now Corvallis, was named. Mrs. Villa Davis resides in Salem.

A. J. Neathery built the Neathery hotel about 1888, about the same size as the Rutherford hotel, on the east side of Oregon Street and almost opposite the Scott hotel, which he conducted until 1893 when he sold the

property to David Wilson and moved to the vicinity of Nyssa. The Neatherys had a grown son and daughter. The son, Robert, operated a dray in Ontario. He was killed by being thrown from a horse. The daughter, Miss Ida Neathery, married John Ward, the prominent sheepman. Mrs. Ward, a cousin of Frank Davis, who recently died in Ontario at the age of 82 years, still resides in Nyssa.

Josiah Carter sold his farm in 1888 to Harry Plummer, and moved to town to take charge of a livery barn. Mr. Carter built a livery stable on the west half of the block across the alley from the present city hall. Part of his feed yard extended into the street. Half-shed stables with hay mows were built on the north and west sides, forming half of the enclosure. Wagon sheds formed the east side and part of the south side.

The blacksmith shop that had been built by Joe Durr was moved to the southwest corner of the Carter corral and Robert Visel was installed as blacksmith. A small building was built at the northeast corner into which William Shelby moved his saddle and harness shop. A bunk for the hostlers stood at the southeast corner. Mr. Carter graded a road through the deep sand leading west from his stable to Nevada (Third) Avenue, near the little yellow school house. The road entered the corral near the southwest corner between the blacksmith shop and the shed-roof stables on the west side and passed on out through another gate near the northeast corner, between the harness shop and wagon sheds. The road connected with Washington (Second) Avenue near Richardson (First) Street, leading to Oregon Street. Heavy loaded freight wagons from the interior would drive into the Carter corral where the teamsters could have their horses fed, sheltered and cared for at the stables. If harness needed mending the harness shop was nearby. If wagons needed repairing the blacksmith was handy and could also shoe the horses. The next morning the wagons would be driven to the warehouses of the Oregon Forwarding Company or the Malheur Mercantile Company, where wool or other commodities could be unloaded and then reloaded with merchandise to be taken to the interior on the return trip. One of my first jobs was as stable boy at these stables.

After Fred Johnson retired as a foreman of the NG company he became a partner of Josiah Carter in the livery business before returning to his native Virginia. James A. Newton and Almer G. King leased the Carter livery stables which they operated for a year or two. During that time J. A. Newton and his sister, Mrs. Maggie Pitcaren, a widow with a small daughter, Emma, conducted the Railroad Hotel. About this time John Neff succeeded Robert Visel as the village blacksmith.

Josiah Carter again took over the livery barn with his son, Charles C. Carter, as partner. Charles C. Carter and Roy S. Rutherford formed a partnership and conducted the barn for awhile, after which the business was

leased by George W. Long and his brother, J. Ed Long. G. W. Long now resides near Portland. J. E. Long is a resident of Ontario.

Josiah Carter, a Union veteran of the Civil War, came from Arkansas about 1884, where his first wife died and he had married again. He had two sons and a daughter, John, Charles and Mary by his first wife. John Carter was the first proprietor of the Carter House. Charles C. Carter, after becoming associated with his father in the livery business, later took over full control. John Carter married Miss Mary Daily, a cousin of the late Frank Davis. Charley married Miss Eva Reeves, a daughter of S. D. Reeves, the first to farm on Willow creek and who later conducted the first hotel in Eldorado. Four children were born to them: Mell, Villa, Mary, and Charles, Jr. Miss Mell Carter was a teacher in the Ontario schools a number of terms. Villa married Win Seaward.

Mary, the sister of John and Charles Carter, Sr., married William S. Stewart. Charles C. Carter and his brother-in-law, William S. Stewart took over the Hulery saloon and changed the name to the Elk Saloon. Following the passing of the horse and wagon days, C. C. Carter opened a garage on North Main Street. Mrs. Mary Carter Stewart still resides in the Ontario vicinity. Her father and two brothers and their wives are deceased.

Neither Drs. Bussy and Hopkins, the first two physicians, remained in Ontario long. Dr. George A. Pogue, with his wife and daughter Bessie, arrived from Lincoln, Nebraska in 1889. Dr. Pogue was the first physician to permanently locate in the county.

R. S. Rutherford leased his hotel to Mrs. Mary Welch in 1892, who with her daughter, Clara, moved into town from their homestead. Rutherford had located a soldier's homestead about two miles south of town on the old emigrant road, which was his reason for leasing his hotel. After the marriage of her daughter, Clara, to H. W. Clement, Mrs. Welch retired from the hotel and it was taken over by Mrs. Lewis and her son, Addie J. Lewis. Mrs. Lewis was the mother of Mrs. Ollie Shelby. Both before and after operating the hotel, A. J. Lewis worked at the harness trade for his brother-in-law, William Shelby. Mr. Shelby had moved his shop from the Carter livery barn to the Morfitt building on Main Street.

J. J. Meninzes, a Portuguese who had been in the sheep business near Beulah, became the proprietor of the Scott saloon. George A. Wright, who had been a foreman for the P. L. F. Co. at the Agency and Warm Spring Valley ranches, acquired the saloon from Meninzes.

W. E. Bowen came from Weiser in 1892, and in November started the publication of the *Ontario News*, the second paper in the city, in the building in which J. M. Duffy had his drug store that was latter occupied by the Williams saloon.

After keeping the postoffice for a year or two in the Scott or Odd Fellow building, Postmaster H. T. Husted moved the office to the old frame

building in which Shilling & Danilson and later W. L. Geary & Co. had conducted their general stores. This building occupied the site of Dave Powers Ontario Groceteria. A. W. Porter opened a drug store in that part of the Scott building that had housed the postoffice. His niece, Mrs. V. V. Stone, kept house for him in the rear part of the building. She was a widow, with a small son, Jodie. The Odd Fellows still occupied the upper story. After a few years, Mr. Porter went to Placerville and later to Caldwell, where he continued in the drug business until his death.

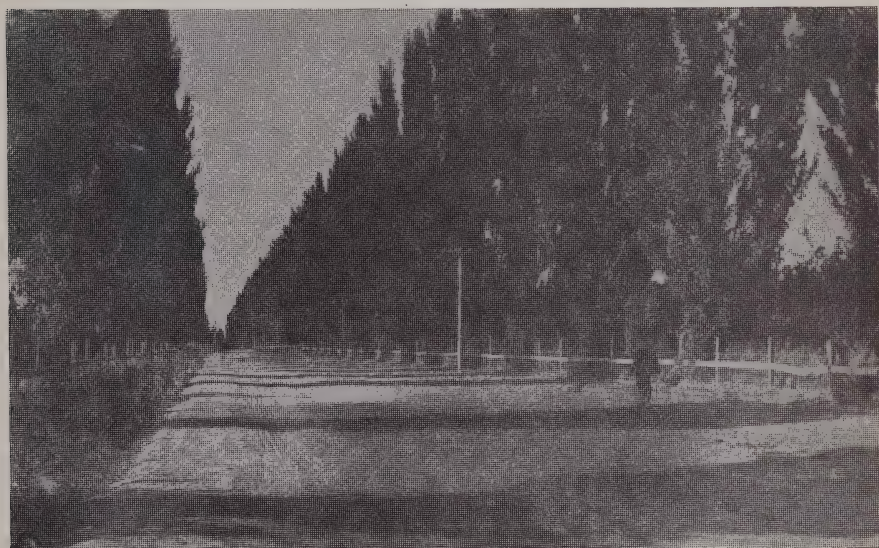
George L. Pope, in 1892, was the first barber to permanently open a shop in Ontario. It was located in the smaller of the Scott buildings, two doors north of the Scott saloon. Before this a few transient barbers had temporarily conducted shops in a small room adjoining the Hulery saloon on the south. Thomas D. Wilkerson was the second barber to locate in the city. He came about 1900. G. L. Pope was the second justice of the peace for Ontario.

The Congregational church, the first church erected in Ontario—and the second built in the county—was built in 1892. The first church in Malheur county was built near the present town of Jamieson a year or two earlier. N. G. Sullens was most instrumental in building the Jamieson church and after it was completed he sometimes occupied the pulpit. Judge J. T. Clement, his sister, Mrs. Van Ness, and Judge G. L. King were the ones most instrumental in having the Congregational church built. D. B. Purcell and J. A. Draper donated work on the building. Some of the funds to build the church were raised through the efforts of the First Congregational Ladies' Aid Society, of which Mrs. G. A. Pogue was the president and Miss Edna Clement secretary. The society was organized at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Pogue in July, 1892.

Mrs. G. A. Pogue, Mrs. J. T. Clement, Mrs. J. A. Draper and Mrs. R. S. Rutherford were among members of a committee to solicit donations. They canvassed the surrounding communities as far west as the Halliday bridge and south to Arcadia. A Thanksgiving dinner was held November 26, 1892, in the vacated K. S. & D. building that stood at the Pharmacy corner. A. H. McGregor donated a pig, which the committee sold to Dave Dunbar for \$3.00. J. A. Morton donated a box of apples. A farmer donated a load of alfalfa hay which was sold to a livery barn for \$4.50. Other donations included butter, ham, chickens, eggs and other provisions served at the dinner. Mrs. Louise E. Jones, Mrs. J. T. Clement, Mrs. R. S. Rutherford, Mrs. J. A. Lackey, Mrs. C. C. Crawford (Mrs. Seymour Ross), Mrs. A. P. Mack, and Mrs. William Shelby cooked and prepared the dinner. Mrs. Phynn Van Ness, Mrs. P. G. Eblen, Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. A. White were hostesses and head waitresses. Adults paid 25 cents and children 15 cents for dinner. The aid society cleared \$55.00 from the dinner. There was an abundance of food left over which the ladies sold for \$25 to sponsors of a

Thanksgiving dance that took place in the same building that night. The church was dedicated by Rev. Clapp, the first pastor. The population of Ontario at that time was less than 150.

Judge G. L. King purchased and donated chairs to replace the original wooden benches to seat the congregation. It was agreed, at the time of building, the church was to be used by other denominations. The Methodists and Baptists held services there until their own churches were erected in 1897 and 1903, respectively. For over fifty years the first church built in Ontario was the home of the First Congregational Church, during which time



Arcadia Boulevard

substantial improvements were added, including a basement and parsonage. In April, 1944, the church became the property of the Pilgrim Luthern congregation, with Rev. C. D. Schroeder as pastor.

When construction work was started on the enlargement and extension of the Owyhee irrigation canal in 1892 from the Owyhee river to the immediate vicinity of Ontario, Kiesel, Shilling & Danilson acquired 1,320 acres of land at Arcadia by using desert and timber claim privileges. The company had a large part of the land cleared and put under cultivation; 390 acres of which was seeded to alfalfa and 135 acres of orchard planted, that within the next four or five years produced 12,000 bearing trees. The land improvement was under the supervision of T. T. Danilson, who had disposed of his interests in the K. S. & D. general store in Ontario and devoted his time and attention to the company's large farm. A grove of 27 acres of shade trees, mostly of the locust variety, was set out under the personal sup-

ervision of Mr. Danilson, and the place assumed the name of Arcadia. A mile long lane running through the Arcadia farm was shaded on either side by two rows of tall lombardy poplar trees and from this the highway between Ontario and Nyssa took the name of the Arcadia Boulevard. Thirteen acres were platted for the Arcadia townsite and a postoffice was secured. Alvin P. Mack, who had been employed for some time in the K. S. & D. store in Ontario, assisted Mr. Danilson in developing the Arcadia farms. Mr. Mack, who came from Michigan in 1890, was a cousin of Harry M. Plummer and Mrs. Buell Clement. He acquired a farm near Cairo where he resided a number of years and then returned to Michigan with his family where he and his wife both died.

David Wilson, of Davenport, Washington, acquired the controlling interest in the Ontario townsite company about 1892, and had the townsite re-surveyed and expanded to one mile square. The engineering work was performed by Mr. Wilson's father-in-law, Civil Engineer Ward. The original townsite was not laid out in accordance with the cardinal principals of the compass—east, west, north, and south. The railroad, entering the city from the south, veers a trifle east of due north. William Morfit, in surveying the original town, laid out the streets parallel with the railroad track. So as not to inconvenience property owners or complicate matters, Mr. Ward did not change the original lines in extending the townsite.

After purchasing the Neathery hotel, David Wilson leased the property to T. C. Fletcher and wife. They were succeeded as host and hostess by Ed I. Gillette and wife. William Smith succeeded Gillette as landlord and in 1894 Mrs. J. S. Jones took charge as landlady. About a year later, Mrs. H. L. Zutz took over and upon her death was supplanted by Mrs. W. R. Shimp. Mrs. Zutz was the mother of Ferd Zutz, the Vale real estate dealer.

S. J. Rees, who came from Woodbine, Iowa, in 1893, opened a blacksmith shop. He purchased the north part of the old C. E. Boswell homestead which is now included in Villa Park. Rees sold out in 1902 and went to Emmett, where he operated a confection store until his death March 12, 1936. Mrs. Rees died there October 2, 1944. Both were returned to Ontario for burial. Stroud Rees was an older brother of Will S. and Clarence E. Rees, prominent farmers now residing in Valley View vicinity. The late Mrs. S. J. Rees was a cousin of Mrs. W. S. Rees.

Will S. Rees came from Iowa to this vicinity in 1892 and not long thereafter filed on a homestead across the old pioneer trail just west of the Harry M. Plummer place. About two years later he returned to Harrison county, Iowa, and on February 18, 1894, was married to Miss Elma Sherwood. Soon after their marriage, Mr. Rees brought his bride to the homestead where they have since resided. On February 18, 1944, they observed their golden wedding at which sixty guests called at their home to pay respects to this popular pioneer couple. They are the parents of two daugh-

ters, Mrs. Knox Alexander, of Pendleton, and Mrs. T. W. Penn, of Ontario. Clarence E. Rees located on a homestead near his brother, W. S. Rees, and with his family has resided there for the past fifty years. Mrs. W. S. Rees is the Valley View reporter for the Argus-Observer.

Not long after obtaining control of the Ontario townsite company, David Wilson bought the Morton ditch from J. A. Morton. Mr. Morton had taken the ditch out of the Snake river about three miles southwest of Nyssa to supply water for his homestead soon after locating it in 1874. For the first few miles, during the spring high water season, the water flowed through a small slough running from the river. After Mr. Wilson obtained the ditch it became known as the Wilson ditch and was extended to the immediate vicinity of Ontario. C. H. Leach and I worked as rodman and chairman with Engineer Ward in re-surveying the townsite and later in surveying and widening the Wilson ditch. Ed I. Gillette worked with us in surveying the townsite.

A survey of the Wilson ditch was continued along the edge of the hill west of Ontario city limits and continued on across the Malheur river and over Dead Ox flat to almost opposite Weiser in the hope of being able to supply irrigation water for that locality. But this part of the project was abandoned when the survey revealed that not enough land would come under the ditch on Dead Ox flat to justify the extension.

During the years 1894-95 Ontario experienced its first substantial growth. In 1894, there were only about fifty children in District No. 8 of school age. The district voted \$5,000 worth of school bonds for a two-story four-room brick school house, two rooms above and two below. The contract for the building was awarded to David Wilson, who assigned the carpenter work to J. A. Draper. This building was situated on the block where the Conklin grade school is located and was the largest school building in the county.

The first brick buildings on Main Street were erected by David Wilson in 1894. Mr. Wilson was the owner of the first brick yard in Ontario, which was east of the railroad track and north of the wagon road leading to the Ontario-Payette ferry over the Snake river and north of the present Idaho Avenue. A man named Story had charge of the brick moulding.*

The same year Mr. Wilson started construction on a large three-story frame building on the northwest corner of Oregon Street and California (now Fifth) Avenue, which was given the name of the Ontario Hotel, and was sometimes called the Wilson Hotel. Upon its completion in 1896 and until the large Moore Hotel was built, the Wilson Hotel was the largest hostelry between the cities of Baker and Boise.

* J. T. Clement told an authentic joke on David Wilson. A rather queer character named Brooks was a laborer at the Wilson brick yard. Brooks had seen Wilson enter the office of the Clement lumber yard, followed him in, but lost track of him in the yard. The Clement chicken yard was close to the lumber yard. Judge Clement came upon the brick yard worker, who had wandered into the hen house, and demanded to know what he was doing there. Brooks replied that he was looking for David Wilson. At that time Wilson was one of the most prominent businessmen in the city.

About the time David Wilson started construction of the Ontario Hotel, he built a livery barn for A. L. Sproul on the east side of Oregon Street. Mr. Sproul came from the lower Owyhee where he had been superintending the extension of the Owyhee canal the year before and opened the barn, which became known as Ontario livery stable, and later called the Red Front Barn.

Henry Eldredge came from Vale in 1895 and opened a blacksmith shop. On July 1 he was married to Miss Euphenie Shimp, adopted daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Shimp. The Shimps were running the Neathery Hotel. The Eldredges moved to Council, Idaho, where Mrs. Eldredge died after which Mr. Eldredge returned to Vale.

R. D. Greer came from Weiser in 1895 and organized the R. D. Greer Mercantile Company. Mr. Greer came west from Nebraska with J. T. Clement wagon train in 1881 and later located at Emmett, Idaho. He went to Weiser in 1890 to take charge of a branch yard for the Clement lumber company. When Clement sold his lumber yards R. D. Greer, with two other Nebraskans, H. T. Husted and J. T. Clement, established the R. D. Greer Mercantile Company in the frame building into which Mr. Husted had moved the postoffice from the Scott lodge building. The Husted confectionery store was taken over by R. D. Greer & Co. A large outdoor cellar was built behind the store to be used by the firm for storage purposes.

H. T. Husted resigned as postmaster when the business of the mercantile firm required all of his time and attention. George W. Mellinger, another member of the Lincoln, Nebraska, colony, succeeded Mr. Husted as postmaster and continued to conduct the office in the same building. Mr. Mellinger, a Union War veteran, was the father of two daughters, Iuka and Eureka, named for the two Civil War battles in which Mr. Mellinger had participated. Miss Eureka Mellinger, an accomplished musician, was the first music teacher in Ontario.

In February, 1896, A. F. Boyer brought his wife and six sons, H. Clifton, Oren N., Arthur, Howard, Chesley E., and Wilmer L., to Ontario from Anacortes, Washington. Ray D., the youngest of the seven brothers, is a native of Ontario. Soon after their arrival the firm of Boyer Bros. & Company opened a general mercantile store in the frame building in which the Duffy Bros. had opened the first drug store.*

Louis Adam came from Payette in 1895 and established the L. Adam Lumber Company on California (Fifth) Avenue between the Ontario Livery Barn and the railroad. The Adam Lumber Co. was destroyed by fire in 1905, believed to have been ignited by sparks from a locomotive that had

* Soon after moving to Ontario, Boyer Brothers adopted the camel as a trade mark. Mrs. Dottie Edwards, the well-known ex-editor and columnist, in her column published in the *Ontario Argus* of April 5, 1931, made this comment . . . "Before I get sidetracked on the subject, I want to tell you about the picture that I wanted to describe week before last. The picture is of the present office of W. L. Turner, et al, but was taken in May, 1898, and the letters on the awning read, 'Boyer Bros. & Co.' It needs no second glimpse at the arid desert around and about the frame structure to see whereof the local merchants got the inspiration for the camel that is their trade-mark."

been switching cars nearby. Mr. Adam re-built his lumber yard and later increased the business to include a planing mill. He put in branch yards at Nyssa, Payette, Vale, Parma and Notus, and changed the name to the Empire Lumber Company. He sold his lumber business in 1916 to the Boise-Payette Lumber Co. George McClain was one of the first managers for the latter company in this city.

Charles A. Ritch opened the first plumbing and tin shop in 1896 and later the first furniture store in one of the Wilson brick buildings on the west side of Main Street between Nevada (Third) and Colorado (Fourth) Avenues. Mr. Ritch manufactured a gas generator. A year or two later Frank E. Graham became associated with Mr. Ritch. Ward Canfield purchased Graham's interest in the store in 1899 and the firm took the name of Ritch & Canfield.

David Wilson sold the Neathery Hotel to John M. Brown who came from Juntura in 1896. After the hotel was sold, the Shimps, who were operators moved to a 40-acre homestead on the Snake river about half-mile north of the fair grounds. Here Mr. Shimp operated a yard that supplied brick for some of the buildings in the city, including the first brick store built by Boyer Bros.

Dr. M. Pfefferle opened the first dentist office in the city on Colorado Avenue just west of the corner of Oregon Street and Colorado Avenue. His son, Loring Pfefferle, opened a paint shop. He married Miss Susie Brown, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Brown.

When J. M. Brown and wife took charge of the Neathery Hotel they changed the name to the Farmer's Hotel. After conducting the hotel for a year they sold the property to their son-in-law, T. B. Fiser, who came from Juntura at that time. The Fisers conducted the hotel for some time and the name was again changed to the Fiser Hotel. The Fisers sold the property to T. H. Moore in 1910, after which it ceased to be a hotel.

Frank Zeller acquired the building and moved in his pool hall. Mr. Zeller had the frame hotel building dismantled in 1937 to make room for a new modern brick structure where he continued to conduct his resort. Mr. Zellar and his wife, the former Miss Zula Thompson, a long-time pioneer of the county, still reside in the Ontario vicinity. The old Fiser Hotel was the last business building erected in what was known as the original town—all of which were frame buildings on Main Street—and was the last to disappear. The old Boyer frame building—among the first to be built—remained longer than any of the other business buildings. It was dismantled just a few years before the Neathery or Fiser building.

Not long after J. M. Brown sold the Neathery Hotel to his son-in-law, he built the Carter House, a brick building, south of the frame Neathery Hotel. For a brief time he conducted the new brick hotel under the name

of the Malheur Hotel, after which he leased it to Johnny Carter and the name was changed to the Carter House.

The year 1896, twelve years after the founding of Ontario, is memorable, for on February 11, the city was incorporated. The first city officials were elected in August. They were: Mayor, E. H. Test; Aldermen, J. T. Clement, H. T. Husted, J. A. Lackey, G. A. Pogue, E. C. Bunch and J. M. Brown; Recorder, G. W. Mellinger; Treasurer, A. W. Porter; Marshal, I. H. Moore. The first business transacted by the city council was the passage of Ordinance No. 1, granting a saloon license to James H. Wright. During the administration of Mayor Test he had the first trees, lombardy poplars, set out along Main Street. They are noticeable in some of the pictures in this volume. They were removed when the streets were paved. Isaac H. Moore, blacksmith, came with his family from Weiser about 1895. He opened a blacksmith shop in the building that stood near the present city hall. After residing here for many years Ike Moore and his wife returned to Weiser where he died. They were the parents of two daughters and a son, Mabel, Cleo and Noel. Mabel married Russ Jackson. They also returned to Weiser. She is now the wife of Carl Morton of Weiser.

Armor Lodge No. 69, Knights of Pythias, instituted September 24, 1896, was the second fraternal order organized in Ontario, with a charter membership of eleven. The first officers installed were D. B. Purcell, Grand Chancellor; H. T. Husted, Vice Chancellor; G. W. Mellenger, Pre-late; W. E. Bowen, Keeper of Records and Seal; R. F. Ault, Master of Work; W. J. Mink, Master of Exchequer; G. C. Pope, Master of Finance; Louis Adam, Master at Arms; Sam C. Darr, Inner Guard; J. E. Long, Outer Guard. Trustees, F. J. Stanton, J. E. Long and S. C. Darr. The first member initiated after the lodge was instituted was J. R. Gregg; Robert Van Gilse was the second and A. H. McGregor the third.

About this time two families that became prominent in the early life of the city located here—the J. G. Staples and H. E. Newman families. Both Staples and Newman built large two-story homes in the south part of town. The Staples came from Henderson, Kentucky, and the Newmans were originally from Texas. Mr. Staples was an old time printer. Mrs. Staples was a cousin of R. A. Lockett and Mrs. Louisa E. Jones. V. B. Staples, the oldest son, had come west earlier and before the arrival of the rest of the family had made his home with his half-sister, Mrs. Thomas Jones and her husband, in Burns. Mrs. Jones is a daughter of Mr. Staples by a former marriage. Hickman, Joe and Everett, and their sister, Elizabeth, came west with the parents. Elizabeth married William Shinn, a former assistant principal in the Ontario schools and was later the first agricultural agent of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Staples and their son, Hickman, rest in Evergreen cemetery, as does also Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Newman. Virgil B., Joseph and Everett Staples are now prominent Ontario businessmen. The

Newman children, S. Price, Andy, Edward, Will, Grover, and the Misses Margaret M. and Catherine, have long since moved away.

The Hotel Ontario, on which David Wilson's construction crew started work in 1894, was not completed until 1896 and remained vacant until July, 1897, when it was opened by C. E. Belding with a grand ball and supper. Mr. Belding had been induced to move to Ontario by his friend, A. F. Boyer, and David Wilson from Anacortes, Washington. Later Belding's brother-in-law, A. J. Knapp came and opened a meat market in which Belding was interested.

J. J. Cortright succeeded G. L. King as O. S. L. station agent in 1897 and in turn Cortright was succeeded by B. W. Rice about 1900.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1897 and the second church edifice was erected in the city near the present site of the new Methodist church. T. C. Fletcher and his family had recently moved in from the lower Owyhee and built a handsome two-story dwelling in the southwest part of town. Mrs. Fletcher was most instrumental in organizing the M. E. denomination here. The first meeting of members, at which organization was perfected, was held in the Fletcher home.

About the time the Methodist church was built, Rev. G. W. Morrison, a Presbyterian missionary, arrived and organized a church membership. He held services in a small frame building. This building burned down after it had become a second-hand store. The present United Presbyterian church was not built until about 1912.

About the time of Rev. Morrison's arrival, Rev. Father H. A. Campo organized the Catholic denomination. Father Campo, a native of Belgium, was the first Catholic priest to locate in Ontario. He came before the Blessed Sacrament church was built and was its first pastor. He was the pastor when the Dominican Sisters came from the east to have Holy Rosary hospital built, the first hospital in the county, erected in 1909.

Ontario Acacia Lodge No. 118, A. F. & A. M., was chartered June 16, 1898, with a membership of twelve, the third fraternal order instituted in the city. The first officials were: Cassus M. Brown, Worshipful Master; G. L. King, Senior Warden; C. W. Mallett, Junior Warden; J. J. Cortright, Secretary; E. H. Test, Treasurer; H. W. Clement, Senior Deacon; William Miller, Junior Deacon; G. W. Blanton, Senior Steward; W. A. Sisson, Junior Steward; B. L. Milligan, Chaplain; James H. Farley, Tyler. The twelfth charter member was J. W. Thomison.

The ladies auxiliary of the Odd Fellows, Beatrice Lodge No. 82, Daughter of Rebecca, was instituted October 22, 1895, at which fourteen candidates were initiated. The officers elected were Mrs. G. A. Pogue, Noble Grand; Mrs. T. T. Danilson, Vice Grand; Mrs. David Dunbar, Secretary; Miss Josie Danilson, Treasurer. The appointive officers were T. T. Danilson, warden; Mrs. W. E. Hulery, conductress; E. A. Fraser, right

support of noble grand; Mrs. E. Butler, left support of noble grand; Dave Dunbar, chaplain; W. E. Bowen, inside guardian; W. E. Hulery, outside guardian.

Mystic Temple No. 22, Pythian Sisters, ladies auxiliary of the Knights of Pythias, was instituted March 2, 1900, with thirty-five charter members and the following officers: Mrs. Lizzie Purcell, Past Chief; Mrs. Carrie Roberts, Most Excellent Chief; Mrs. Lulu Mack, Excellent Senior; Foybelle Adam, Manager of Temple; Mrs. Lola Pogue, Mistress of Records and Correspondence; Mrs. Belle Husted, Mistress of Finance; Mrs. Irilla Quackenbush, Protector of Temple. Miss Eureka Mellinger, Guard of Outer Temple. The three Trustees were, Mesdames G. W. Mellinger, Elizabeth Stewart and A. H. McGregor.

Eastern Star Chapter No. 69, A. F. & A. M., was installed December 13, 1900, with a charter membership of forty-one. Officers were, Mrs. Mattie Miller, Worthy Matron; C. H. Brown, Worthy Patron; Mrs. Emily A. Pogue, Assistant Matron; J. J. Cortright, Secretary; Mrs. Elizabeth Dunbar, Treasurer; Mrs. Anna Cortright, Conductress; Mrs. Emma Halliday, Assistant Conductress; Five points of the star: Mrs. Jennie Graham, Adah; Mrs. Mattie Griffith, Ruth; Miss Freida Hinz, Esther; Mrs. Mary R. Test, Martha; Mrs. Mary Mallett, Electra; Miss Myrtle Craig, Warden; R. S. Rutherford, Sentinel; Mrs. L. M. King, Marshal; Miss Belle Blanton, Organist.

CHAPTER 21

ONTARIO AND VICINITY

*There are no days like the old days,
When we, not they, were young,
When all life's rays were golden rays,
And wrong had never stung.*

—Anonymous.

The development of Ontario and vicinity from 1897 to 1905, following the twenty-mile extension of the Owyhee canal, was highlighted by many new settlers coming into the region to make new farms and acquire permanent homes. Much raw land was cleared, improved and put into cultivation.

Among the farmers who came from the east to locate in the Cairo vicinity were Charles W. Atherton and his father-in-law, M. Vining, D. H.

Brown and Ben Rose who came from Iowa; J. Edwin Berry and his sons-in-law, C. U. Stover, L. H. Patton, E. K. Ingle and L. M. Capron, formerly of Iowa, came from Kansas. Ed Berry and most of these pioneers have long since passed away. L. M. Capron died at the family home, two miles west of Cairo, November 30, 1932. His widow, Mrs. Rennie Berry Capron, died June 7, 1945.

Charles W. Atherton, a native of Wales, when a youth arrived in New York. He went from there to Wisconsin and later to Iowa. In 1882, he was married at Dunlap, Iowa, to Miss Jennie Vining. They were the parents of three sons and three daughters. Mr. Atherton died in Ontario July 2, 1931, at the age of 86. His widow still resides in Ontario. Their son, J. B. (Beli) Atherton, former proprietor of the Eastside Grocery store on Idaho Avenue, has recently retired. His wife is the former Callie Ingle, only daughter of the late E. K. Ingle. They were childhood sweethearts and attended Ontario schools together. One of their sons, Arthur Atherton, is manager of the Malheur County Bank in Ontario. Another son was associated with his father in the grocery. Curt Ingle, son of E. K. Ingle still resides in this vicinity.

Two more pioneer farmers were C. W. Aldredge, a native of Alabama, who came from Oklahoma in 1901, and D. T. Downs, a native of Missouri, who came in 1905. Both of them and their wives are deceased.

J. Edwin Berry and his wife, Eliza J. Gifford Berry, were natives of Canada and migrated to Iowa. Their son-in-law and daughter, Calvin U. Stover and the former Christee Berry, are natives of Marshall county Iowa. They were married in Pocahontas, Iowa, December 24, 1897, and came to Malheur county in February, 1903. For many years they engaged in farming and stock raising near Cairo. The Stovers now reside in Ontario. Mr. Stover is now a stock buyer and Mrs. Stover is a reporter for the *Argus-Observer*. Their eldest son, Edwin "Dick" Stover, who died in 1939, was a former rural carrier from the Ontario postoffice and later conducted a service station in the city. The second son, Ben U. Stover, for many years a farmer near Cairo, now resides with his family at Goodrich, Idaho. The youngest son, Guy E., a native of the county, is a breakman for the Union Pacific.

About the time the above farmers came to Cairo, Ira Dail, J. C. Fleming and W. J. Pennington located near Arcadia. C. C. Hunt and W. L. Gibson settled on farms in the vicinity of Nyssa. Gibson died many years ago. Hunt moved with his family to Twin Falls, where he died in 1948.

About the time the Owyhee ditch was extended past Arcadia, F. J. Kiesel induced a French colony, headed by Henry Belile and Rev. Father Guillaume, to settle in the Arcadia vicinity. Father Guillaume was the first Catholic priest to locate in the county. After a few years residence here most of the colony, including Mr. Belile and the priest, returned to



Western Oregon. Henry Belile was the father of Albert Belile, deceased husband of Mrs. Eva McGregor Belile, now an Ontario resident.

In 1896, Robert Van Gilse and his cousin, W. J. Van Limberg, came from Amsterdam, Holland, and settled in the vicinity of Arcadia. Mr. Van Gilse was the first to arrive and first located near Payette and then purchased the Elbert Butler, Sr., place near Arcadia and started the first fruit tree nursery in the county. They started the Dutch colony, many of whom are now prominent citizens of the county. Mr. Van Gilse married Miss Trien Tensen, also a native of Holland, after her arrival. She is a sister of Pieter and Dick Tensen, both well-known pioneers. Dick Tensen died at his home in Nyssa, December 8, 1944, after living in the county approximately forty-five years. Pete Tensen and Dick Groot, another Hollander, are prominent citizens of the Nyssa vicinity. Robert Van Gilse and family now reside in Glendale, California.

In 1897, the Arcadia land holdings of Kiesel, Shilling & Danilson were incorporated under the title of the K. S. & D. Fruit and Land Co. Not long thereafter, T. T. Danilson disposed of his interest in the company and moved to Davenport, Washington. N. U. Carpenter, son-in-law of William N. Shilling, succeeded Mr. Danilson as manager of the land company. Later F. W. Metcalf acquired the holdings of Mr. Shilling in the company and became manager.

Through the influence of Fred J. Kiesel the Oregon Short Line railroad established a depot and put in a sidetrack just east of Arcadia farms. Walter Rice, brother of B. W. Rice, Ontario O. S. L. agent, was transferred to the Arcadia station. When the rural mail route from Ontario, past Arcadia to the vicinity of Nyssa was established in 1902, the postoffice at Arcadia was discontinued. After a town failed to develop the railroad company moved the depot.

Mr. Kiesel bought the F. W. Metcalf interest in the Arcadia Land Co. to become the sole owner. Ed I. Gillette had charge of the Arcadia farms. Fred Kiesel died about 1918. His son, Fred W., handled the business interests of the heirs in the Arcadia estate until his death at his home in Berkeley, California, August 24, 1944.

About the time of the extension of the Owyhee ditch, David Wilson hired J. E. Johnson to resurvey the Morton ditch and had it built to within a mile of the city at a cost of about \$8,000. The ditch, when completed, was thirteen miles in length and ten feet wide on the bottom with a carrying capacity of 1,000 inches of water.

Decoration Day in Ontario, May 30, 1900.

The photo shows Main Street as it looked on May 30, 1900. The picture was taken from the top of the Odd Fellow's building and shows the Grand Army veterans. Woman's Relief Corps, Knights of Pythias and Rathbone Sisters as they appeared in the line of march. A row of brick business houses now occupy the vacant lots on the west side which was known at that time as the "burnt district."

E. M. Greig and associates in 1899, purchased the Wilson ditch that supplied water for farms east of the railroad track. Later the city installed the filtering plant and furnished irrigation water for the east side. Ebenezer M. Greig and his wife came to Ontario from Iowa in 1897. He engaged in irrigation and land developments and at different times was associated with A. W. Trow, W. H. Doolittle, W. L. Turner, W. J. Pinney and V. B. Staples in business. His wife, Mrs. Matilda Barnett Greig, took a leading part in social activities as a member of the *Federation of Woman's Clubs*, *Study Club* and other organizations. She was active in the Red Cross during World War I, and at the time of her death in May, 1938, was president of the Library Board. E. M. Greig married Mrs. Thea Young Emison, widow of the late C. R. Emison, in November, 1939. The second Mrs. Greig was also a long-time leader in women's affairs. She was a charter member of the *Music, Art and Drama* clubs, and at the time of her death, September 9, 1947, was productive chairman of the *Malheur County Chapter of the American Red Cross*. E. M. Greig died February 24, 1948, at the age of 77.

In 1898, J. P. Kidd came from Diamond valley in Harney county and opened the first photograph gallery in Ontario. He also established a job printing plant. Mrs. Nora A. Kidd, eldest child of J. H. Seaward, the pioneer sheepman, assisted her husband in both enterprises. Mr. Kidd died October 14, 1934. Mrs. Kidd followed her husband in death July 29, 1937. Both were natives of Missouri.

In 1898, A. L. Sproul was chosen postmaster to succeed G. W. Mellinger. Mr. Sproul continued to conduct the office in the R. D. Greer & Co. store until 1902 when he moved the office to the lower floor of the I.O.O.F. brick lodge building upon its completion. Before assuming the position of postmaster, Mr. Sproul sold the Ontario livery barn and feed yard to J. H. Farley. In connection with the barn, Mr. Farley operated a coal business and draying. A. A. Brown became associated with Farley in the livery business.

In 1899, Stephen Carver arrived from Nebraska and with J. R. Blackaby, who came that year from Jordan valley, organized the Bank of Ontario with a capital stock of \$40,000. Stephen Carver was elected president, J. R. Blackaby vice president, C. W. Platt cashier, with L. Adam, T. J. Brosnan, J. L. Cole and Robert Van Gilse directors. This was the first bank established in Malheur, Grant or Harney counties.

The first serious fire in Ontario occurred early on the morning of October 5, 1899. The fire, of unknown origin, was discovered in one of the rooms in the second story of the Railroad Hotel about 1:30 a.m. by a roomer, David Weir, of Jordan valley. F. M. Gibler was running the rooming house. Ontario had no fire protection and a bucket brigade was formed to fight the flames. Manager Test of the O. F. Co. supplied the fire fighters

with many buckets from the store as did R. D. Greer & Co. and Boyer Bros. & Co. The flames were soon out of control as they spread quickly to other nearby frame buildings and efforts were turned to removing furniture but much of that was destroyed. Attention was turned to protecting other buildings.

All buildings fronting east on Oregon Street in the block between Nevada (Third) Avenue and Washington (Second) Avenue, except the Corner Saloon, were burned to the ground. The seven buildings destroyed included the Railroad Hotel and the two-story building adjoining on the south formerly occupied by the Odd Fellows Lodge and the postoffice that, at the time of the fire, was used as a warehouse. Others were the Wright & Poe saloon, the Rutherford Hotel, conducted by Mrs. E. Arnold, a restaurant and barber shop, between the hotels and a Chinese laundry back of the warehouse on the southeast corner of the block. None of the property was insured. The total loss was estimated at \$12,050.

Trees along Main Street aided in preventing the Neathery hotel from igniting. The Boyer frame building south of the burned block was badly scorched. The Carter livery stable, at the time operated by Alex Smith, was threatened by flying burning embers. Mr. Smith removed all stock and vehicles. The G. W. Chambers dwelling was threatened and the fire fighters gave up once from saving it from the conflagration. The tearing down of a large adjacent ice house helped to save the livery stable. The block where the buildings were destroyed remained vacant some time and was long-known as "the burnt district."

In 1899, E. A. Fraser, who since 1888 had been connected with the firm of Kiesel, Shilling & Danilson in different capacities as clerk, book-keeper and manager, purchased the controlling interest in the R. D. Greer mercantile establishment from R. D. Green and J. T. Clement. Fraser and Husted changed the name of the firm to the Malheur Mercantile Co., with E. A. Fraser as manager. After disposing of his interest in the store, Mr. Greer purchased land and improved a farm near Cairo which later became known as the E. M. Moore place. After selling this farm, Greer bought a home on the Owyhee. About 1908, he went to Ontario, California—about fifty miles from where I am writing this story. The Greers were the parents of one daughter, Myrtle. Mrs. Greer was also the mother of Mrs. Villa Davis, former wife of Frank Davis. Both Mr. and Mrs. Greer died in California. About 1890, R. D. Greer & Co. moved the frame store building they had occupied since the firm was established to the lot north and erected a one-story brick on the corner of Washington (Second) Avenue for their general store. The old frame building was for a while still occupied by the postoffice and later used by the Malheur Mercantile Co. for a warehouse until it was replaced by a brick structure.

In 1902, a 40-foot addition was built onto the rear of the Malheur

Mercantile Co. brick store building. After the death of Mr. Husted the business was taken over by Mr. Fraser and the firm assumed his name. Mr. Husted was married to Miss Belle McGregor, oldest daughter of A. H. McGregor. They were the parents of three children, Edith, Joy and Viola.

In 1899, W. E. Lees came from Vale and opened the second law office in Ontario. J. S. Pinkston moved in from the Owyhee and for a time was associated with Mr. Lees in the real estate business. Later Mr. Lees became associated with David Wilson and became part owner of most of the Wilson brick buildings along Main Street and at a later date became full owner.

In 1900, David Wilson built a frame opera house on the south side of Nevada Avenue about the middle of the block between Richardson and Virtue Streets. Before the advent of moving pictures, road companies gave theatrical performances in the opera house. The building was also utilized as a dance hall and social and public gatherings. The opera house burned down in 1935.

Mrs. Josephine Cordner Lee built a boarding and rooming house on Nevada Avenue, south of the present city hall. Her grandson, Roy Smith, came from Pennsylvania to make his home with her and grew to manhood in the town. For a number of years Roy engaged in the draying business, operating a truck line between Ontario, Portland and other points. His wife is the former Miss Zella McGill, daughter of Dave McGill, the pioneer stockman who came here from Grant county in 1905. When a small boy, Dave came overland to Oregon with his parents in a covered wagon. Mr. and Mrs. McGill, deceased, both sleep in Evergreen cemetery. The Roy Smiths are the parents of three sons.

James H. Wright, like his brother, George A. Wright, had been a foreman for the P. S. L. Co. at the Agency and Warm Springs ranches. They came from their native Kansas about 1888. George came to Ontario about 1890 and operated a saloon in the Scott building and was later succeeded by his brother Jim, who changed the name to the Oak Saloon. In 1901, James A. Poe came from Payette and bought a part interest in the resort from James H. Wright. In 1902, George A. Wright took over the saloon and again changed the name to the "Wright Place."

J. H. Wright married Mrs. Josephine Lee and they continued to occupy the dwelling at the corner of Richardson Street and Nevada Avenue, south of the city hall. After retiring from the saloon business, J. H. Wright opened the Cash Meat Market in a little frame building across the street south of the Wright home. In later years, W. H. Doolittle acquired the Wright dwelling and with his family made his home there until he bought the Alex Lohead property one block south where they resided until his death in October, 1930, and where Mrs. Doolittle still resides. Both the Wright dwelling and meat market have since been dismantled.

Holden T. Husted was elected the second mayor of Ontario and assumed office in January, 1900, with the following councilmen: James A. Lackey, Charles C. Carter, J. M. Brown, J. M. Babcock, J. H. Wright and William Shelby. George A. Wright was named city marshal, John E. Roberts city recorder and J. Philip Kidd, treasurer. Marshal Wright soon resigned and Steve Poe was appointed temporarily to the office that was later filled by L. J. Rawlings.

ONTARIO AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

In 1900, the principal establishments in the city were: Oregon Forwarding Co., largest as well as the oldest of the three general mercantile establishments and the largest business institution in Oregon east of Portland, with Fred J. Kiesel, president, and E. H. Test, manager. Thomas Jones was the bookkeeper; the clerical force included I. H. Holland, E. A. Reiger, Virgile B. Staples, Chester A. Martin, A. B. Cox, and Mrs. Ora Mosley, with E. W. Brown as warehouseman. Mrs. Mosley, who later married J. U. Hoffman, of Juntura, was in charge of the drygoods department. After her marriage Miss Julia Jones assumed charge of that department. A conservative estimate of the annual business of the firm was \$150,000.

The second largest and next to the oldest general store, Malheur Mercantile, was owned and conducted by E. A. Fraser and H. T. Husted. This firm was originally established in 1895, as R. D. Greer & Co. The business of the Ontario Forwarding Co. and Malheur Mercantile Co. extended into the interior for 150 miles. The Ontario Forwarding Co. had four large well-filled warehouses and during 1900 handled 1,500,000 pounds of wool. At that time the Malheur Mercantile Co. had just commenced to handle wool from the interior.

The third general store, Boyer Bros. & Co., established in 1896, was under the management of H. C. Boyer. Cliff Boyer, at the time of his death December 12, 1846, at the age of 70 years, had been in business in the city for 50 years. Henry Clifton Boyer was born in Kansas, June 10, 1876. When a small boy he came overland by covered wagon to Camas, Washington, crossing the Snake river at Washoe ferry. Of the seven Boyer brothers only two are alive at this writing, the other five having joined their parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Boyer, in death. Howard, who had married a niece of the J. D. Billingsleys, was killed by a coal mine cavein in Wyoming. Arthur, whose wife, Kate, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Davis, died in Nevada. Wilmer L. died from an injury received in an accident in Ontario October 27, 1945. His widow, the former May Gilliam, resides in the city. Ray D. died in Ontario a year later, November 24, 1946. Chesley E., is the only one of the seven brothers still residing

in the city. He was a small boy at the time the family came here and became a clerk in the Boyer store a few years later. He is now in charge of the state liquor store. He is one of the city's oldest businessmen. He is married to a former school mate, Ernestine Billingsley. Both are prominent in social circles. Orin N., next in age to Cliff, resides in Salem.

Reverting back to the business houses of 1900: William Shelby, the saddle and harness maker, was conducting the second oldest establishment still in the city. He was a Confederate veteran of the Civil War. At the time of his death two years later, December 20, 1902, his pall bearers, all members of the Grand Army of the Republic, were T. D. Barton, T. C. Fletcher, A. H. McGregor, S. L. Spann, D. E. Fairchild and John Stone. Such acts of former veterans greatly aided in reuniting the North and South.

The first exclusive clothing furnishing goods store was conducted by Griffin & Pogue. The firm had been established in 1899 by Lockett Griffin, S. P. Newman and U. G. Pogue. Newman had retired to engage in the sheep business. V. B. Staples later acquired Pogue's interest and the firm operated for a number of years under the name of Griffin & Staples. They had both been employed by E. H. Test in the Ontario Forwarding Co.

The Ontario Pharmacy was established by P. A. Snyder and Miss Maggie Newman in 1899 who purchased the drug business from A. W. Porter. The year before Snyder and Miss Newman had taught in the Ontario schools.

Miss Catherine Newman, sister of Margaret and S. Price Newman, conducted a millinery store. Price Newman married Miss Julia Jones, a sister of Judge Tom Jones. Their cousin, R. Lockett Griffin, married Miss Cassia Newman. R. L. Griffin and S. P. Newman are both deceased. Mrs. Griffin now resides in Boise and Mrs. Newman in San Francisco. U. C. Pogue went to Wennatchie, Washington, where he engaged in the drug business.

V. B. Staples is still a prominent Ontario businessman. He was born in Henderson, Kentucky, October 10, 1887. When 19 years old he came to Harney county and two years later to Ontario where he was employed as clerk by the Ontario Forwarding Co. He later engaged in business in Vale and served one term as postmaster from 1912 to 1916. Returning to Ontario he became part owner of the Garber-Staples Motor Company and Ford Garage, in which his younger brother, Everett, was also interested. V. B. Staples served several terms on the city council and two terms as president of the commercial club. For fourteen years he represented Malheur county in the legislature, after which he declined another term. For some time he has been engaged in the real estate and insurance business at 39 Second Avenue, and owns a valuable 123-acre farm three miles south of town. His wife, the former Emma Johnson of Fruitland, is prominent

in social circles. Joe Staples engaged in the dairy business and was later assistant manager for Dave Powers in the Groceteria.

Turning back again to 1900, F. Smith Kibler had taken over the Hotel Ontario from C. E. Belding. J. M. Brown was conducting the Carter House. Mrs. I. N. Harrell and Mrs. A. J. Halloway were conducting the two restaurants.

L. Adam had been conducting his lumber yard for four years. A. L. Sproul was the postmaster. G. L. King, the retired station agent and former publisher of the *Mattock*, was in the real estate business and local agent for the Ontario-Burns stage line, of which C. M. Kellogg of Baker was owner. This was the last year of the *Advocate*. In November, D. C. Boyd purchased the plant from J. E. Roberts and changed the name to the *Argus*. J. J. Courtright who had recently been replaced by B. W. Rice as O. S. L. station agent, was engaged in the insurance business.

At that time Ontario had three lawyers and three doctors. William Miller was district attorney. The other two lawyers were Will R. King and William E. Lees. Drs. G. A. Pogue and R. O. Payne were the physicians and Dr. M. Peferle was the dentist. All these professional men are deceased.

William E. Lees was the father of a prominent present day attorney, Robert E. Lees, and his brothers, William E., Jr., and Fred Lees. Their mother, Mrs. L. Belle Lees, was a Vale pioneer school teacher. She taught in the White Settlement and in the Valley View school.

Dr. Rollo Onley Payne was born in Harrison county, Iowa, November 22, 1877. At the age of sixteen he graduated from the Woodbine schools and finished his education at Iowa State Normal. He graduated from the St. Louis, Missouri, Medical College in 1899 and in 1900 came to Ontario where he first started the practice of medicine. For the next 33 years he was one of Malheur county's leading physicians until his death in Holy Rosary Hospital, December 25, 1933. Dr. Payne was first elected coroner of Malheur county in 1908 and filled the position for the next twenty-five years, until the date of his death.

Dr. R. O. Payne and Miss Margaret M. Maule, also a native of Harrison county, Iowa, were married in Ontario on December 29, 1912. Before that date, Miss Maule, who was residing with her parents in Payette, had been employed as a stenographer in the law office of W. H. Brooke and later for Brooke & Tomlinson. Her father, William W. Maule, was for years one of Payette's leading businessmen. He died in Ogden, Utah, in July, 1947, where he had been in the real estate business for some time and was building houses for veterans. His wife, Mrs. Lenora Love Maule, died while the family were living in Payette, Idaho, January 14, 1922. Dr. Payne's father, George C. Payne, died in Iowa before the doctor and his mother, Mrs. Henrietta Carter Payne, came to Ontario. The mother, Mrs.

Henrietta Payne, was a pioneer teacher in the Ontario schools. She died in this city in April, 1933.

Dr. and Mrs. R. O. Payne are the parents of Helen W., wife of Vernon M. Butler, formerly of Arcadia and now of Adrain; Pauline L., wife of Theodore King, Arcata, California; Norma R., wife of J. Kenneth Vonderpool, Adrain, Oregon; Dr. Robert D. Payne, now of Bakersfield, California. After graduating from Oregon Medical College he took internship in Detroit, Michigan, and during World War II was an army physician, stationed first in San Francisco, then San Antonio, Texas, Redbank, New Jersey, and Middleton, Pennsylvania. He is at present resident physician and surgeon in Kern General Hospital at Bakersfield, California. Their mother, Mrs. Margaret M. Payne, besides taking a leading part in business and social affairs in Ontario, still continues in secretarial work and looks after her farming interests and the renting of her Ontario property.

The Bank of Ontario—organized two years before—was the only banking institution in the district comprising Malheur, Harney and Grant counties in 1900.

After an absence of sixteen years, Seth H. Oliver returned in the spring of 1900 and opened a jewelry store in the city. Other business establishments were Ritch & Canfield's Furniture Emporium and Tinner Shop; G. H. Shearer's Cash Racket and F. M. Gibler's Confectionery stores.

E. H. Test resigned as manager of the Oregon Forwarding Co. to organize the First National Bank of Ontario, established on June 6, 1901, with a capital stock of \$25,000. The first officials were John D. Daley, president; Moses Alexander, vice-president; E. H. Test, cashier; E. M. Clark, assistant cashier. The stockholders were M. Alexander, Frank R. Coffin and B. F. Olden, of Boise; E. H. Test, N. U. Carpenter and William Miller, of Ontario; John D. Daley and Abner Robbins, of Drewsey; William Jones of Juntura; Thomas Turnbull, of Barren valley. The bank, first located in a one-story brick building, three doors north of where the J. A. Lackey two-story brick was built the next year. After the Lackey building was completed the bank moved into the quarters now occupied by the Malheur County Bank.

After E. H. Test resigned as manager of the Oregon Forwarding Co. E. A. Rieger, a nephew of Fred J. Kiesel, who had been in the employ of the company for six years became manager.

R. J. "Jodie" Stone, who had lived in Ontario when a child with his uncle, Arthur W. Porter, who operated a drug store, returned in 1901 with his mother to open the R. J. Stone Drug Co. Dr. G. A. Pogue had an interest in the store, which was opened in the old William Morfitt store building.

Dr. R. O. Payne and Will R. King built a two-apartment one-story brick office building north of the Morfitt store building. Dr. Payne oc

cupied the north apartment and Judge King the south part in June, 1901. In 1904, W. H. Brooke came from Wisconsin and joined King in the law firm of King & Brooke. When King became a member of the state supreme court and went to Salem to reside, Brooke continued to occupy the office and later formed a partnership with V. W. Tomlinson. This office is now occupied by Len Christenson's barber shop. V. W. Tomlinson, who married Ruby Landingham, died in Portland in September, 1948.

Albert Zimmerman, who had been in the furniture business with his brother, E. Zimmerman in Payette, came to Ontario in 1901 and took over the furniture store of Ritch & Canfield. He later established an undertaking parlor in connection with the furniture store. Some years later, Albert Conover, his brother-in-law, came from Payette to assist in the business. Mr. Zimmerman was elected to the city council in 1912 and sold the furniture and undertaking business to Walter Clevenger, of Burns. After serving on the council, Zimmerman held other positions, including city water master, which he resigned in 1939 due to poor health. Zimmerman married Miss Lillian Conover on June 6, 1900, in Salt Lake City. They became the parents of two sons, Francis Zimmerman of Alturas, California, and Albert Zimmerman, Jr., a veteran of World War II, now of Portland. Mr. Zimmerman died at the age of 56 at his home in Ontario, November 5, 1942. His widow died at the home of her son, Francis, October, 1947. The first wife of the late L. Adam was the sister of A. and E. Zimmerman. She was the mother of Mrs. Ollie Hagar. A. Zimmerman was born at Beavertown, Indiana, July 4, 1866. When a boy he accompanied his parents to Pendleton and later to Portland.

Albert W. Conover was born October 19, 1869, in Byron, Illinois. He came west when a small boy and lived in this locality most of his life. He was married to Miss Emma J. Wade, who was an Ontario school teacher during the time he was connected with the Zimmerman Furniture Co. After the furniture store was sold he became a mortician and operated in a small frame building near the site of the present city hall. Later he moved the business to Payette. Mr. Conover died at Holy Rosary hospital April 18, 1945, at the age of 78 years. He is survived by his widow and their only son, Gilard Conover, both residing in Payette.

G. W. Clevenger married Mrs. Emma Halliday, widow of T. W. Halliday, April 4, 1920, in Vale. After leaving Ontario Mr. Clevenger continued in the furniture and undertaking business in Burns and Vale. He died in Vale in 1938. His second wife died there August 28, 1943.

D. T. Dearborn came to Ontario in 1901 and became associated with D. B. Purcell in building contracting. In his younger days Dan Dearborn had ridden the range in the vicinity of Malad, Idaho, and later learned the carpenter trade. In 1900, he built a mining dredge for C. G. Singer, of the Singer Sewing Machine Co., to be used for dredging flour gold from

the Snake river at the Big Bend, about twenty-five miles south of the city. D. T. Dearborn, now deceased, was the father of O. D. Dearborn.

Four councilmen were chosen at the Ontario municipal election December 4, 1899. D. B. Purcell, J. M. Brown incumbent, and A. L. Sproul were elected for full two-year terms and C. W. Platt was chosen to fill out one year of the term of William Shelby who had resigned. Seth H. Oliver was elected city recorder. The two holdover councilmen were J. M. Babcock and Charles C. Carter. The councilmen whose terms expired were J. A. Lackey, J. M. Brown and J. H. Wright.

James E. Madden came from Westfall and purchased the Josiah Carter livery stable. He built a large barn on the southwest corner of the half-block and the next year he built a residence across the street to the west of the barn. After running the barn for some time he turned it over to his two oldest sons, John H. and Charles, and it was thereafter known as Madden Bros. Livery Barn. John married Miss Iva Purcell, daughter of D. B. Purcell, and Charlie married Miss Mabel Mink, daughter of W. J. Mink. Some years latter, J. E. Madden sold the property to C. E. Bingham and the half block became the manufacturing plant of the Ontario Concrete Pipe Co. J. E. Madden and these two sons are now deceased. Mrs. Iva Madden is postmistress at McCall, Idaho. The former Mrs. Mabel Madden is now the wife of W. F. Davis, of Anacortes, Washington.

Upon the death of Daniel Smith, one of the four original owners of Ontario townsite, his housekeeper, Mrs. Mary J. Janey fell heir to his property holdings here. She came to Ontario in 1901 with her son, Mannie Howard and his wife. Mannie leased and operated the Ontario livery stable and feed yard for a year and then returned to Baker City. J. R. Blackaby bought Mrs. Janey's interest in the townsite and she, too, returned to Baker. In September, 1902, Mannie Howard was convicted at Baker for mutilating the brand on a horse and was sentenced by Judge Eakin to serve five years in the state penitentiary at Salem.

The autumn of 1901 was eventful in the history of Ontario. In October Ed Ashley of Mosquite entered into a contract with the citizens of Ontario to drill a deep well for the purpose of striking artesian water to supply the city. A short time before this Mr. Ashley had struck natural gas while boring a well near Mosquite on Dead Ox flat. The elevation of Ontario is 2,157 feet. In accordance with the contract the well was to be sunk to a depth of 1,500 feet if necessary, or until artesian water, oil or natural gas was found. David Wilson, one of the principal owners of the Ontario townsite, agreed to bear one-half of the expense for drilling the well while the other half was to be borne by the citizens of Ontario. Natural gas had been struck at 1,000 feet in the well Mr. Ashley had sunk eight miles north of the city and the Ontario promoters were confident gas or oil would be found in paying quantities at a depth of 500 feet. Oil had

been reported as discovered on the surface only about four miles from where the gas had been struck in the well on upper Dead Ox flat. It was believed the sinking of the Ontario well would determine whether or not there was oil in this vicinity.

Mr. Ashley's crew had their machinery in position and started drilling on October 23 between the edge of the board sidewalk and the street near the northeast corner of the Hotel Ontario—later called the Colonial Hotel. Boyer Bros. store, on the northeast corner of the block was the only other building in the block at that time facing Main Street. November 19, natural gas, which forced water to the surface, was encountered at a depth of 1,100 feet. A gas jet was attached to the well and when ignited produced a brilliant light. The gas well attracted many visitors to the city. The well owners contemplated installing a gas plant to supply light and heat for Ontario and surrounding communities, including Payette, Vale and Nyssa. When casing was installed the flow of gas ~~was stopped~~ and the proposed gas system was abandoned.

The discovery of natural gas within the city limits and on Dead Ox flat and finding oil seepage on the surface near the later well aroused a great deal of interest. In December, the month following the discovery of gas in the Ontario well, J. B. Bowden, James H. Bowden, Charles Foster, H. G. Pearson, Walter Moore, H. J. Hoffman, all of Baker City, J. S. Millikin and H. W. Hicks of Ontario, with others, engaged in locating oil claims in the vicinity of Alkali springs northwest of Malheur butte. Foster and Millikin, civil engineers, surveyed the claims. Hope Bros., of Vale, and others, including Portland capitalists, organized a company to prospect for oil in this locality.

The oil excitement extended to the Owyhee breaks where George A. Darr, brother of Mrs. Susie Morton, and several others located oil claims between Chalk buttes and Double mountain, some twenty-three miles southwest of Ontario. The ground there is mostly of shellfish formation and it was said oil had been found in that vicinity on the surface.

In October, 1902, Ashley & Culpepper struck gas while drilling a well for A. F. Boyer on his home place adjoining the southern Ontario city limits. For several years the Boyer family utilized this natural gas for light and cooking purposes in their home.

A Payette company was formed to drill for oil and gas within the city limits, near the railroad bridge across the Payette river.

As the result of the discovery of natural gas in the Boyer well and the well in front of Hotel Ontario, a local company was organized in 1914 to drill another well on the Boyer property. The organization was given the name of the Ontario Oil & Gas Co. It was expected gas or oil would be found in paying quantity. As drilling proceeded gas was encountered at different depths but boring continued to greater depths in the hope of

finding a better flow of gas or oil. Drilling continued to a depth of about 5,200 feet when the casing slipped and parted of its own weight. After several attempts failed to rescue the tools and casing from the well the shaft was abandoned. No other wells were drilled by the company.*

Another local company, headed by S. D. Dorman, was organized some years later and wells were drilled west of town without obtaining results. Some people still believe that oil and gas in paying quantities will yet be located near Ontario.

The first church wedding in Ontario took place in the Congregational church November 29, 1897, when Rev. B. L. Milligan united in marriage Benjamin Rutherford, son of the R. S. Rutherfords, and Miss Daisy Henshaw, of Washoe. The second church wedding took place in the same church November 28, 1901, when E. A. Rieger and Miss Sylva Lyells were united in marriage. The bride was the eldest daughter of G. W. and Mary S. Lyells. Among the out-of-town guests at this wedding were, Mrs. Mary Rieger, Fred Rieger and Fred J. Kiesel, mother, brother and uncle of the groom, who came from Ogden, Utah.

The Boyer frame store building had been divided by a partition through the center. Miss Casie Newman opened the first millinery store in the south section of the building. She continued the business after her marriage to R. L. Griffin. J. S. Pinkston and A. M. Lackey conducted a real estate office in the north part. J. J. Burbridge, who had been a telegraph operator when B. W. Rice was O. S. L. station agent, later opened a real estate office in the same part of the building. When W. H. Doolittle came from Seattle about 1905 he formed a partnership with Burbridge.

Clarence E. Noe opened a barber shop in one of the Wilson stores, three doors south of the Boyer frame structure. H. C. Farmer and W. H. Utley became associated with Mr. Noe in the shop. Noe served as city recorder one term.

Ontario's first telephone system, Malheur Home Telephone Co., was an independent system organized by local people in 1901. Mrs. Iona E. Oliver, was the first manager, with Miss Lavine Smith as her assistant. Mrs. Oliver's husband, S. H. Oliver, had passed away on June 19, 1901, leaving his widow with two small sons, Earl and Harry. He was Ontario's second merchant in 1884, when he entered business with the established merchant, T. T. Danilson. In 1885, he sold his interest in the store and returned to his former home in Pocatello. Fifteen years later he returned and opened the first jewelry store in Ontario.

The Malheur Home Telephone Co. became connected with the Rocky Mountain Bell long distance line. Mrs. Oliver, now deceased, was succeeded by J. W. Thomson as manager. Miss Lavine Smith was telephone operator for four years, then she opened a rooming house in 1907 in the

* I now hold a souvenir \$25.00 stock certificate of the defunct Ontario Oil & Gas Co.

south part of town that she ran until her death on June 24, 1948, at the age of 73. A half-sister of J. R. Blackaby, she came from Iowa to Jordan valley in 1897 and to Ontario in 1903.

The Eastern Oregon Telephone Co. was organized in Ontario, December 20, 1902, with a capital stock of \$1,500. The incorporators were F. W. Metcalf and Robert van Vilse, of Arcadia, and C. C. Hunt of Nyssa. The stock was divided into 150 shares at a par value of \$10 each. The line was extended south to Arcadia and Nyssa, connecting with rural homes along the way. Through the efforts of Hope Bros. and T. W. Halliday, of Vale, the line was connected with that city and later extended to Westfall. This company was absorbed by the Malheur Telephone Co.

On December 3, 1901, William Miller was elected the third mayor of Ontario, together with three councilmen, L. Adam, J. A. Draper, and V. B. Staples, all without opposition. The holdover councilmen were D. B. Purcell, A. L. Sproul and J. M. Brown. C. A. Martin was named city recorder, J. P. Kidd, treasurer and G. W. Chambers, marshal. The new officials assumed duties on January 1, 1902. Martin soon resigned as recorder and was succeeded by Kidd. Chambers resigned as marshal in August, 1902, and James Bevel was named to succeed him.

An official census report by City Recorder J. P. Kidd on February 1, 1902, gave Ontario's total population on that date as 643. It was classified: males, 348; females, 295; minors, 299; white population, 637; Asiatic, 6. Estimated value of improvements in the city during the past six years—(dating from the date of incorporation, February 11, 1896) \$49,375.

Early in 1902 the three leading fraternal orders in the city, the Masons, Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias, purchased the Ontario cemetery. I here quote extracts from my report for the Ontario *Argus* of February 14, 1902:

"This action on the part of these benevolent orders is not for speculative purpose, in the hope of financial gain, but as an act of charity—one of the cornerstones upon which these three great fraternal societies are founded—to aid the living and care for the dead.

"The funds derived from the sale of lots will be used in the improvement and care of the cemetery grounds. The Ontario cemetery, which has been neglected for some time, will in the future receive proper care and attention, and those who have dead friends buried there may rest assured that the identity of their graves will be preserved for all time.

"The proposal for the purchase and maintenance of the grounds by the citizens has been agitated for the past seven or eight years. At one time the city council was asked to buy the grounds and for some reason failed to take action on the matter. But through the untiring efforts of Mr. R. S. Rutherford, Sr., and a few others, the proposition was kept before the people. Last fall it was taken up by the fraternal societies with the result that in the future Ontario is to have a beautiful and attractive resting place for the dead.

"The cemetery ground includes fifteen acres of the G. L. King ranch and portions of three blocks of the Ontario townsite, or eighteen acres in all. The cemetery trustees are C. H. Brown for the Masons, R. S. Rutherford for the Odd Fellows and H. T. Husted representing the Knights of Pythias, with L. Adam secretary of the association."

About two years later the cemetery was taken over by the city. In 1948, by an act of the city council, the name was changed to Evergreen cemetery.

Many of the stockmen moved their families from the interior to the city to give their children the benefit of Ontario's splendid school facilities. One of them, J. D. Billingsley, in July of that year, purchased the E. A. Rieger residence in the north part of town, where he resided for nearly thirty-five years, until his death in the spring of 1947.

Among other stockmen who came later were John Wood from Barren valley, Duncan McRae from Riverside, J. M. Dinwiddie from Jordan valley, T. F. Arnold and Donald McDonald from Beulah.

Unlike the early day mining camps that sprang up in a day and later vanished, Ontario, Vale and Nyssa were never boom towns. Located in a rich agricultural and stock raising section, their growth has been permanent.

J. A. Lackey bought the two corner lots in "the burnt district" where the Scott lodge hall, postoffice and Railroad Hotel had stood and erected a large two-story brick known as the Lackey building and sometimes called the Gus building for the man who later purchased the property. E. W. Brown opened the first hardware store in the room now occupied by the Western Auto Supply Co., on the former site of the hotel. He was soon joined in the hardware business by C. A. Martin, who subsequently bought Brown's interest. Both had been in the employ of the Oregon Forwarding Co. and Martin had worked for the Malheur Mercantile Co. The front part of the upper story of the Lackey building was occupied by the Masonic order. The large room on the ground floor back of the First National Bank was an office that was later occupied by the Malheur Telephone Co. that moved from its original quarters near the center of the block south, on Oregon Street.

Delbert M. Taggart, born in Etna Green, Indiana, accompanied his parents to Vale when 18 years old. He soon came to Ontario and for a time was a postal clerk in this city under Postmaster Sproul. Later he went to work in the C. A. Martin hardware store and about 1907 became the owner of the establishment which he conducted for the next twenty-two years as the firm assumed the name of the Taggart hardware store. Floyd Hagar, who came with his parents from Minnesota, was for a time employed by the Malheur Mercantile Co. He later went to work for Mr. Taggart and succeeded him and the store became known as the Hagar hardware store. Floyd Hagar married Miss Ollie Adam, daughter of L. Adam. He conducted the Hagar Hardware store until his death.

After retiring from business Mr. Taggart bought a farm in the Cairo vicinity where he engaged in farming for many years. For some time he was in partnership with Dan McCoshem in the Pioneer Packing Co., of which he had recently disposed. Upon his retirement from business, Mr.

Taggart and his wife now make their home in Ontario. Mrs. Taggart, whose maiden name was Ina Stilwell, is a descendent of a prominent pioneer family. Her grandparents crossed the plains in 1844 and located in Yamhill county. They were the first white couple married in the county. D. M. Taggart and Miss Ina Stilwell were married at the bride's birthplace, Dayton, Oregon, September 11, 1910, on the donation land claim that her grandfather located soon after coming to Oregon. The D. M. Taggarts are the parents of one son, Max D. Taggart, the prominent Ontario lawyer and former district attorney.

The same year, 1902, the J. A. Lackey building was constructed, J. M. Brown erected the Carter House across Oregon Street on the corner opposite the Lackey building. When first opened the hotel lobby was in the part of the building now occupied by the United States National Bank. A bar was in the present hotel lobby. The change in the lobby was made when the Ontario National Bank acquired the hotel property about 1913 and moved the bank from its original location at the northwest corner of Oregon Street and Colorado (Fourth) Avenue to the present location of its successor, the U. S. National Bank.

The same year David Wilson built five brick buildings north of the Lackey two-story brick, one of which was occupied by the W. E. Loomis jewelry store. The other four were occupied by J. C. Brashier's clothing store; the Chicago millinery parlors, owned by Mrs. Lulu Simpson and Mrs. Edythe Westrope; J. C. Kelley's branch harness shop, operated by William Olk; and Jim Lee's Chinese restaurant. Jim Lee was a well-known character of the day who had been a lawyer in his native land. Another Chinaman was arrested charged with having opium in his possession. Jim appeared as his attorney and succeeded in having the case dismissed in justice court. After disposing of his restaurant, Jim engaged in truck gardening, marketing his vegetables in Ontario and Payette.

E. S. Rice ran a second-hand store, in the block south of these establishments, which he sold to A. L. McDowell in 1905 and went to California.

In 1902 the Ontario fish hatchery was established at the lower end of Morton Island on Snake river. Frank C. Brown—no relation of the other Browns—came from Oregon City to superintend the installation of the plant that summer. He had been in charge of the Baird hatchery of McCloud river. About 1,400 feet of racks were placed across the river at the foot of the island. Over 60,000 feet of lumber was used in construction of the hatchery and other buildings.

After operating here two or three seasons the salmon hatchery was dismantled and removed to Western Oregon. One of the main reasons for the abandonment of the hatchery was the decline in the salmon specie of the finny tribe. While stationed at the Ontario hatchery Assistant Superintendent Arnold married Miss Edna King, eldest daughter of Judge G. L.



*Crew Obtaining Salmon Eggs at Early
Fish Racks Across Snake River at Ontario.
Superintendent Brown in center facing camera.*

King. When the hatchery was abandoned they went to the Willamette valley.

About 1902, G. W. Long opened a clothing store in the brick building now occupied by the Alexander Clothing Co. About 1906, M. Alexander purchased the establishment from Long and Ad Simon came from Boise to take over the management. He was succeeded by Sam Creem, who some years later became associated with Somers clothing store in Weiser after marrying Somers' daughter. C. W. Crothers was next to take over the Alexander clothing store in this city. The Alexander Co. is still doing business at the old stand and is one of the oldest business establishments in the city. **K. A. Allen** is present manager.

J. J. Cortright, who had married Mrs. Anna Taylor at the time he was O. S. L. station agent, opened a confectionary just north of the original location of the First National Bank. Mr. Cortright died in Holy Rosary hospital about 1913. His widow married A. C. New and they went to San Francisco. Both are deceased.

Ontario became a third-class postoffice in 1902. On October 1, Ontario Rural Delivery No. 1, running past Arcadia to near Nyssa, was inaugurated. Oscar J. Stone was the first rural carrier, as substitute for his father, John Stone. George A. Bender succeeded Stone as carrier, until he transferred into the office and became assistant postmaster. Bender was succeeded as carrier by Oscar F. Neece. Neece carried the rural mail for a number of years and then transferred into the office. All three of these carriers carried the mail in a light horse-drawn vehicle. In 1916, the

R.F.D. Route was extended up the Malheur valley past the C. W. Mallett ranch and the mail was delivered by auto as the route was then almost twice as long as the original route. Dick Stover was the first rural carrier to deliver mail by auto. He was succeeded by Stanley J. Millikin, the present assistant postmaster.

E. A. Rieger, who had been connected with the Oregon Forwarding Co. since 1895 and became manager in 1899, resigned as manager in November, 1902, and went to Park City, Utah, to engage in business for himself. A year or so later he came back to Boise where he conducted a wholesale liquor business until his death. His widow married again and still lives in Boise. M. Jacobsgaad succeeded Rieger as manager of the Oregon Forwarding Co. He was succeeded as manager by J. S. Barrett who brought his family here from Ogden. Mr. Barrett remained as manager until 1906 when Fred J. Kiesel sold the stock of the company to Rader Bros. & Lampkin.

William Miller, who had been elected district attorney, resigned the office of mayor, which necessitated the election of a successor at the regular city election December 3, 1901, to fill out the term for one year. At this municipal election the first contest took place for officials since the city was incorporated. The main issue involved was the proposed enactment of a Sunday closing law for saloons. The three councilmen whose terms expired at this time were D. B. Purcell, J. M. Brown and A. L. Sproul. The three holdover councilmen were L. Adam, V. B. Staples and J. A. Draper. Sproul had previously been city marshal.

Two tickets for city officials were nominated. The citizens ticket was headed by J. A. Lackey for mayor, with E. A. Fraser, W. R. King and C. C. Carter for councilmen. The progressive citizens or Sunday closing ticket was headed by C. E. Belding for mayor, with C. W. Platt, Ward Canfield and J. E. Long. With 110 votes cast the result was: For mayor—Lackey, seventy-six; Belding, thirty-three. For councilmen—King, eighty-five; Fraser, eighty-four; Carter, eighty-four; Platt, twenty-six; Canfield, twenty-four; Long, twenty-one. Mayor Lackey named E. M. Greig city recorder and D. P. Dearborn city marshal.

In the fall of 1902 the first business building comprising the original town of Ontario to be torn down was dismantled and moved to Arcadia. This frame building stood at the Pharmacy corner and was originally occupied by the first general mercantile store in the town. After it was vacated by Kiesel, Shilling & Danilson it became a sort of dance hall and place for public meetings. It was in this building the first public Thanksgiving dinner was given in 1897 to raise funds for the building of Ontario's first church, the Congregational. On Washington's birthday, February 22, 1894, a grand masquerade ball was held that was one of the most historical social events of the early days.

A short time before the old building was torn down the unvalled basement under the rear part of the structure caved in, causing the northeast corner of the building to collapse.*

As an experiment, a portion of the Main Street of Ontario was graveled in September, 1902. The experiment proved satisfactory and the entire street through the business section of the city was later graveled, forming a firm foundation for travel and the pavement, which was put in about ten years later. The street had been graded in 1896.

The Idaho Implement Co., of Boise, established a branch store in Ontario in 1902, with C. C. Smith, who came from Boise, as manager. This establishment, located on north Oregon Street in a brick building on the southeast corner of block 12, was later taken over by the Malheur Mercantile. About 1906, Irwin Troxell acquired the business from E. A. Fraser and for the next twenty years the present county judge conducted the establishment under the firm name of the Troxell Farm Implement Company. For many years Judge and Mrs. Troxell and his sister, Miss Kate Troxell, have been leading members of the Congregational church and other social circles.

Miss Kate Troxell is treasurer of the Study Club, one of the leading woman's social clubs in the city. The other officers are Mrs. Fred Olmstead, president; Mrs. Asie Gunderson, first vice-president; Mrs. W. H. Cleary, second vice-president; Mrs. Earl Hollingsworth, secretary; Mrs. V. B. Staples, auditor; Mrs. W. Walker, press correspondent; Mrs. Stella Cox, parliamentarian.

In 1902, Frank Smith Kibler, who went by the name of Frank Smith, and Mrs. Pernetta Stevenson became host and hostess of the Hotel Ontario, succeeding Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Belding. After a short time Mrs. Stevenson retired. Mr. Kibler continued as landlord until about 1908 and then went to Nampa where he conducted a cigar store.

Louis Hurtle came from Jordan valley about 1903 and opened a barber shop in the Carter House which he conducted a number of years. He died at his home on the East Side May 10, 1931. L. P. Hurtle had been married twice and is survived by a son, Ralph, born to the second wife.

Amos K. Johnson, next to the last of the pioneer tonsorial artists to operate in Ontario, learned the trade under Hurtle and was associated with him until Hurtle's death. Mr. Johnson continued in the barber business until he sold his shop in 1948 and retired because of ill health. He died in Holy Rosary hospital January 30, 1949, at the age of 67. Amos was born in Berryville, Arkansas, May 16, 1882. When about a year old his parents

* OLD LAND MARK REMOVED—The old K. S. D. store building at the corner of Main Street and Nevada Avenue has been torn down and removed to Arcadia. This building was moved from Weiser to Ontario over eighteen years before, (1884) and was first occupied by T. T. Danilson and Seth H. Oliver as a store building, being the first general mercantile store in Ontario. The firm afterward merged into the Kiesel, Shilling & Danilson company, and later became the Oregon Forwarding Company, one of the largest general mercantile firms in Oregon.—*Ontario Argus*, December 17, 1902.

came to Ironside where they resided for the next nineteen years. They came to the Ontario vicinity in 1902, where the father, Thomas Johnson, farmed until his death. Amos K. Johnson is survived by his wife and two sons, Frank C. and Harold R. Also a brother and sister. Also a brother, Thomas C., who resides in Nyssa and a sister, Mrs. Emma A. Wallace, of Spokane, Washington.

The First Baptist church was erected in Ontario in 1903 at the northeast corner of Virtue (Second) Street and Colorado (Fourth) Avenue. The first meeting of the Baptist missionary society was held in the home of Mrs. Louisa E. Jones, who took the initiative in having the church built. Thomas Johnson and his wife were instrumental in perfecting the organization. Reverend Thomas Spite was the first minister.

Dr. Jacob Prinzing, a native of Minnesota, opened his office in the J. A. Lackey building in 1903. Dr. Fortner became associated with him later. After Dr. Fortner returned to Western Oregon, Dr. W. J. Weese, a native of Pennsylvania, formed a partnership with Dr. Prinzing under the name of Prinzing & Weese. Dr. Prinzing, who served as army surgeon in World War I with a rank of captain, died about 1920. His widow resides in Portland. Dr. Weese, the eminent physician, is the senior partner of his profession in the city and second oldest in the county.

In 1903, A. M. Lackey built the two-story brick building now occupied by the Ontario Pharmacy, Keeney Bros. & Keel Hardware store and the Multnomah Rooms. George A. Candland purchased the Snyder & Newman drug store and established the pharmacy in its present location. About this time the R. J. Stone Drug Co. was moved from the old Morfitt frame building to a brick building north of the Alexander clothing store. Harry A. Duffy, whose father, James M. Duffy, had opened the first drug store in town, returned and took over the Stone drug store. Later Harry C. Wilson became associated with Harry A. Duffy and the firm took the name of the Wilson-Duffy Drug Co.

After conducting the Ontario Pharmacy for some time G. A. Candland sold to Frank J. Everhart. Some years later O. M. Castleman became the owner. Art Agur is present owner.

James Scott, who had come from Westfall and bought the S. J. Rees farm on the hill west of town—now a part of Villa Park—sold the place to C. C. Carter in 1903. Charlie built a large two-story frame dwelling, which he occupied with his family, while farming and continuing his business in town. He sold the property to Frank Davis, who occupied the premises for a few years, and then Davis sold the place to Thomas F. Arnold, who had come from Beulah. It was later the home of Judge Dalton Biggs. Tom Arnold died in Fresno, California, October 6, 1948.

After his disposal of the farm James Scott bought a half-block of ground and built a livery stable on the southeast corner of the intersection

at Colorado (Fourth) Avenue and Richardson (First) Street. Sam Hobson bought the barn that burned down in 1911.

Ontario experienced what was probably its hottest contested city election in December, 1903, with Sunday closing law as the main issue. James A. Lackey was renominated for mayor. His opponent was Will R. King. The contest was very close and was in doubt until the official count. Lackey was the winner by a very small margin. He named E. M. Greig city recorder and D. H. Kerfoot city marshal.

During Lackey's second term the first electric lighting plant, water system and sewer were installed. Seymour H. Bell came from Sumpter, Oregon, in 1904, and installed a steam generating electric plant and water system. The plant operated in the evenings to furnish lighting service to a limited number of customers and at other times the power was used for pumping water from the well into a water tank for town use. The plant was installed on the railroad right-of-way north of what was then Idaho, now First Avenue, between the present Van Petten Lumber Co. and the railroad track. Both the light and water systems were very inadequate and unsatisfactory. About 1916 Mr. Bell sold the plant to the Idaho Light & Power Co., after which the present splendid lighting system in the city was installed.

The Bell water system was taken over by the city. The well was abandoned and water to supply the city was taken from the Snake river. A filtering plant was established at the river some years later that now supplies the city with an abundance of pure water.

E. P. Shaw, who had replaced B. W. Rice as the O. S. L. station agent in Ontario, was transferred to Caldwell in 1904. T. E. Munhall, who had been day telegraph operator under Shaw, was temporarily in charge until H. O. Drane arrived to assume the position. Mr. Munhall was transferred to Nampa. After being relieved, B. W. Rice edited the *Ontario Democrat*. He later went to Caldwell and entered the ministry.

For the next thirty-five years H. O. Drane ably filled the position of Union Pacific station agent until his retirement in 1940. For the next four years, following his retirement, Mr. Drane took an active part in civic affairs. Mr. and Mrs. Drane moved in 1944, to Torrance, California, to make their home near their daughter and her husband. For nearly forty years this estimable couple had been leading figures in the civic and social life of the Malheur county metropolis. On July 12, 1944, just prior to their departure, they were honored with a farewell reception by the Kiwanis Club, at which City Recorder Frank P. Ryan, on behalf of the club, presented them with a valuable token of remembrance. Mrs. Julia Drane died in her sleep in California on March 17, 1945. Mr. Drane passed away on October 15, 1947. The Dranes were parents of two children, Ralph of St. Helens, and Mrs. J. Udell, of Torrance, California.

About the time the Dranes came to Ontario, Joseph Scholes, a native of Canada, took charge of the block signal service for the division, of which he was in charge at the time of his death, October 26, 1919. He was president of the Railroad Signalmen's Association. His widow, Mrs. Charlotte Scholes, was born in London, England, October 24, 1877, and came to London, Canada, when a small child, where she met and married Mr. Scholes in 1908. After a residence of over forty years in Ontario, Mrs. Scholes died January 1, 1949, at the advance age of 72 years. She was an active member of St. Mathew's Episcopal church and Ontario Eastern Star Chapter No. 69. Their only son, Firmin Scholes, married Miss Mildred Webster, daughter of another prominent pioneer couple, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Webster. For a number of years Firmin was employed in the mechanical department of the *Argus*. He now operates a commercial printing establishment and flower shop in East Ontario.

For many years L. B. Frye was a telegraph operator under H. O. Drane at the Union Pacific depot. He married Emma Fiser, youngest daughter of the Tom B. Fisers. He served one term as a member of the city council under Mayor A. W. Trow. Mr. Frye was transferred to Emmett where he became station agent and later filled the same position at Weiser. The Fries now reside at Emmett.

H. L. "Bert" Fox, whom I knew in his younger days in Alba, Missouri, came with his family soon after H. O. Drane was made local station agent. Fox was employed as baggage master. About 1930, Bert transferred to Boise to continue in the same position. The two sons, Leonard and Robert, were aviators in the armed services during World War II, Leonard in the navy and Robert in the army.

John McGivern, another railroad employee under Drane, was a native of Ireland. He came to America at the age of 15 and located in Illinois. He was married there to Miss Nancy Ryan, a sister of Cornelius Ryan, a prominent Malheur county pioneer. The marriage was in 1882. The McGiverns were the parents of two sons and four daughters: Lawrence, of Pheonix, Arizona; Thomas, of Lewiston; Mrs. Kathryn Claypool, of Vale, who is the present county school superintendent. The other three daughters, Annie and Margaret McGivern and Mrs. Emma Clemo, all taught in the Ontario schools. They now reside in Portland. John McGivern was caretaker of O. S. L. parks in Ontario. Mrs. McGivern died at Holy Rosary Hospital August 17, 1931. Mr. McGivern died at the hospital February 3, 1933, at the age of 79. Both are buried in the Ontario Catholic cemetery.

The oldest practicing attorney in Ontario is William Henry Brooke, who opened his practice forty-five years ago. Mr. Brooke was born in Brighton, Wisconsin, May 26, 1880, the son of James and Charity (Gulick) Brooks. He was graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in June, 1904, and during that month was admitted to practice law by the

Supreme Court of Wisconsin and by the United States Circuit and District Courts of that state. In September of that year he commenced the practice of law in Ontario.

Mr. Brooke took a leading part in irrigation problems and was attorney in the original organization of the Owyhee Irrigation District. This district now serves a large portion of the lands irrigated from the Owyhee Project.

In 1908, W. H. Brooke was elected Representative from Malheur and Harney counties to the Oregon Legislature and was re-elected in 1910. While a member of the legislature, Mr. Brooke secured substantial appropriations from the state that resulted in the construction of highway bridges across the Snake river at Ontario and Nyssa and an experiment station in Harney county.

In 1912 he was elected District Attorney for Malheur, Harney and Grant counties and served four years. Mr. Brooke is a republican and Mason of long standing. In 1916 he was elected a delegate from the Eastern Oregon District to the Republican National Convention and served as the Oregon member of the Resolutions Committee. He was re-elected in 1920.

In July, 1923, the Brooke family moved to Eugene so the children might attend the University of Oregon. In 1932 he was elected District Attorney for Lane county. He resigned in 1935 and with his family returned to Ontario, where Mr. and Mrs. Brooke have since made their home.

At The Dalles, on September 28, 1911, W. H. Brooke and Emile A. Crossen were married. She is a daughter of the late James B. Crossen and Laura Alice (Marlin) Crossen of The Dalles. Her father was sheriff of Wasco county when that county comprised a large part of Eastern Oregon. They are the parents of four sons and two daughters.

Their sons, Dr. James W. Brooke and his wife, Betty, and their three children, James W. Jr., Kristine and Richard D., and Donald G. Brooke and his wife, Jeanette, and their two daughters, Diane and Virginia, and Robert M. Brooke and his wife, Beverly, live in Eugene. The other son, Richard O. Brooke and wife, Virginia, live in Portland. The older daughter, Emile A. Mahler, is the wife of John P. Mahler, now with the U. S. Army Air Force in Germany. They have two daughters, Page and Raleigh. The younger daughter, Margaret Mary, and her husband, Dr. Ward C. McMakin, and their daughter Margaret L., live in San Diego, California.

Three of the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Brooke, and their son-in-law, John P. Mahler, served overseas in the last war. Dr. James W. Brooke as a lieutenant colonel in the 8th Air Force in England; Donald G. Brooke as an ensign in the U. S. Navy in the Pacific Area; and Richard O. Brooke at the close of the war was a captain in the Combat Engineers of the 7th Army in Austria. John P. Mahler served in the 8th Air Force in England and is now a master sergeant in the Army Air Force in Germany.

Mrs. W. H. Brooke is society editor of the *Ontario Argus-Observer*. In 1948 she was Organizing Regent in the *Malheur Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution*, organized at Ontario in November, 1948, with Mrs. Brooke elected its first Regent. Mr. and Mrs. Brooke now live near their children in Florence.

CHAPTER 22

PIONEERS OF LATER YEARS

*So the multitude goes, like the flower or the weed,
That withers away to let others succeed;
So the multitude comes, even those we behold,
To repeat every tale that has often been told.*

—*Author Unknown.*

In the two immediate preceding chapters, a review has been given of the growth and development of Ontario and vicinity for twenty years, from the time of the establishment of the town in 1884 up to 1905.

The year 1905 is memorable in Ontario history in that the first high school in the city and county was organized. This was the year Professor Eugene B. Conklin came from Pendleton to become our first school superintendent. Under his supervision the high school was established and other educational improvements were inaugurated. Professor Conklin organized the high school cadets and introduced athletics in the county schools which included field meets, football and baseball. He organized the first school fair, which exhibited agricultural, horticultural and works of art in the autumns of 1908 and 1909. This fair led to the establishment of the Malheur County Fair in 1910.

E. B. Conklin and Miss Estelle Eckersley were united in marriage at Cove, in 1896. They became the parents of two sons and two daughters: Donald V. and Roscoe; Mrs. Jean Young and Mrs. Mildred Fryer. Mrs. Estelle Conklin was a teacher at Cove at the time of her marriage. She taught in the Westside and Eastside school in Ontario. Professor Conklin retired in 1911 and engaged in dairying and farming near Cairo and for one year was superintendent of the Nyssa schools. Conklin was one of the organizers of Boulevard Grange, of which C. E. Amidon was the first president. He joined A. H. McGregor to build the Cairo Grange hall as

a storage plant for farm products, after which it was bought by Boulevard Grange for a hall. The hall was badly damaged by fire the later part of April, 1948.

In 1921, E. B. Conklin retired from the farm and moved into town to engage in the life insurance business. On November 1, 1933, while on a business trip to Portland, he was stricken with a heart attack and died suddenly. He was honored with the county's largest funeral, held in the high school gymnasium Saturday, November 4. Many friends came from far and near to pay their final respects to the departed educator. Dirges were rendered by the high school orchestra and the combined Ontario choral societies sang two numbers. Rev. S. P. Hagler of the Congregational Church, delivered the eulogy and presided at the graveside services in Evergreen cemetery. The honorary pall bearers were: O. E. Clark, V. V. Hickox, John Lienhard, D. C. Deming, Frank McCarthy and Peter Peterson. Each represented different granges in the county. The active pall bearers were James L. Turnbull, superintendent of the Ontario schools; Wilmer F. Boyer, W. H. Laxon, G. K. Aiken, Harold Mallett and Stephen Cox.

At a meeting of the Ontario Board of Education on the following Tuesday the directors authorized that the name of The Conklin School be bestowed upon the Westside school in memorium of the first superintendent of the city school. He was survived by his widow and four children. Mrs. Conklin was called by death at the home of a daughter in Garden Home, near Portland, March 6, 1946, and was brought home and laid to rest beside her husband in the Ontario cemetery. The eldest son, Donald V. Conklin, in 1926, moved to Fontana, California, (about twenty-five miles from where I am at this writing) and opened the large Conklin Grain & Feed store that he conducted until 1947. He died at his home in Corona Del Mar, California, August 9, 1948.

In 1905, Henry C. Whitworth and his brother-in-law, Asmus Tonning-sen, took over the Carter House in Ontario. Mr. Tonning-sen married Anna Lingfelter, a teacher in the city schools. A year or so later he retired. The Whitworths operated the Carter House until 1915 when they went to Weiser and took charge of the Washington Hotel. They retired in 1936 and went to Hawaii where one of Mrs. Whitworth's sons by a former marriage, Asmus Patterson, was practicing law. He and his older brother, Nis, had attended the Ontario high school. After two or three years in the Islands the Whitworths returned to Portland. Mrs. Eda Whitworth died in that city February 3, 1947. H. C. Whitworth joined his wife in death in Portland, March 21, 1948, at the age of 85. Both were prominent in fraternal circles.

An epoch making historic event of 1905 was a race across the American continent by two automobiles from New York City to Portland, Oregon.

The winner of the transcontinental race was *Old Scout*, a curved-dash, tiller-steered, one-cylinder 7-horse power 1904 Model Oldsmobile, driven by D. D. Huss, of Detroit. The rival car was *Old Steady*. From the time the two machines left New York on May 8, the race attracted nationwide interest, with daily newspaper reports of progress and positions of the contestants until they reached central Nebraska. From there on *Old Scout*, piloted by Huss, one of the best auto drivers of that day, gradually pulled away from *Old Steady*. It took Dwight D. Huss 37 days from the time he left New York to reach the Eastern Idaho border, and seven more days to cross Idaho. Huss reached Portland forty-four days from the time he left New York, eight days ahead of his rival.

Old Scout was the first auto to traverse entirely Wyoming, Idaho and Oregon, and the first to visit Ontario. It was the first automobile that I ever saw. It came west from Main Street along Nevada Avenue to the *Ontario Democrat* printing office. Seated in the car with Huss was Albert Zimmerman who rode with him through the business section. Mr. Zimmerman was engaged in the furniture business. The next year he became the first automobile owner in Ontario. His car was the same make as *Old Scout*. The first automobile ride I ever took was with Mr. Zimmerman when he brought me home from a baseball game in Payette.

Dr. J. Prinzing was the second Ontario citizen to own an automobile, in which he made professional calls on patients. It was a peculiar two-seated vehicle, with large spoked wheels and rubber tires. It had a top similar to a carriage, and in reality was a *horseless carriage*. Even the steps of the car were similar to that of a carriage. Like *Old Scout*, both the Zimmerman and Prinzing autos were guided by handle bars. This was before the invention of steering wheels. Cars in those days could not travel over the rough, unpaved roads much faster than a spirited span of buggy horses. Some time later C. R. Seguire opened the first garage in Ontario in a brick building across Virtue (Second) Street west of the Baptist church. He was agent for the Buick. By that time steering wheels had come into use.

On September 9, 1931, twenty-six years after the first transcontinental auto race, *Old Scout* arrived in Ontario retracing the route it had traveled in 1905, with Dwight B. Huss again at the helm. He was convoyed by Howard F. Davis, of New York; E. S. Ford, of Portland, and W. L. Fleming, of Boise, when he arrived in the city. At the east city limits the caravan was met by Mayor G. K. Aiken, V. B. Staples and W. J. Pinney, president and secretary of the commercial club; J. A. Davenport, manager of the Malheur Telephone Company, and W. W. Yancy, of the Oregon state patrol. Piloted by Patrolman Yancy on a motorcycle, Mr. Huss, with Mayor Aiken as passenger, drove through the business section, after which the ancient car was parked on a street where it attracted many curious spectators.

While a guest at the Moore Hotel, Mr. Huss related a number of ex-

citing experiences on his first trip with *Old Scout*. One of the incidents occurred as he was nearing Ontario, when a frightened horse jumped a fence and almost landed on the car. A wreck was narrowly averted.

Highway accidents were not infrequent in the old horse and buggy days, although fatal results were not as common. The following news item is from the Ontario *Argus* under the heading, "Two Runaways," July 13, 1901:

"Two runaways on Main Street this week added to the excitement of our bustling city. Tuesday morning, J. A. Farley's dray team took fright while standing in front of his livery barn and dashed down Main Street. The wagon became uncoupled and the horses pulling the front running gear made a circuit of the city park and, turning down Idaho Avenue, they collided with the O. F. Co. delivery wagon, which was standing at the rear of the Company's big store, overturning the vehicle and throwing the horses. The horses became so entangled in the wreckage that it became necessary to unhitch the delivery horse and turn the delivery wagon right-side-up before the dray horses were able to regain their feet. The damage was slight.

"Thursday John Landingham's dray team became frightened while at the depot and made a dash down Main Street. They were stopped by Frank Davis. The only damage was a broken wagon tongue."

At the Ontario city election in December, 1905, Dr. G. A. Pogue was chosen mayor without opposition. He named H. W. Clement city recorder. Before the present city hall was built the city council met in a small one-story frame building across the alley west of the J. A. Lackey brick.

In 1906, Rader Bros. & Lampkin purchased the Oregon Forwarding Co. stock of merchandise from Fred J. Kiesel and opened a general mercantile store in the part of the A. M. Lackey building now occupied by Keeney Bros. & Keele hardware store. Frank Rader, manager of Rader Bros. & Lampkin, was born in Minnesota, July 8, 1867. For a number of years he was engaged in the mercantile business with his father at Ellenwood, Kansas. In that city, on November 16, 1893, he was married to Miss Daisy Harrison. In 1903, they came to Boise, Idaho, where for the next three years he was engaged with his brother, John Rader, in the store business. When they opened the store in Ontario, John Rader remained in Boise. After a time Frank Rader took over the interests of his brother and W. T. Lampkin in the Ontario store and moved the establishment south in the same block to the Wilson building.

W. T. Lampkin opened a clothing store in a building across Oregon Street, almost opposite the Wilson brick. About two years later he moved his clothing and dry goods store one block north.

Mr. Lampkin was born in Appleton City, Missouri, June 30, 1876. His first wife died while they were living in Ontario, leaving him with three small children, the eldest a boy, Thomas E. "Thel," and two girls, Ruth and Thelma. In 1916 he sold his Ontario store and went to Payette where he engaged in banking, and later went to Council, Idaho. In Payette he was married to Susan Wilson, of Melrose, Mo., his childhood sweetheart. In 1926,

he moved his family to North Powder, Oregon, and purchased 2,000 acres of farm lands which he operated until he was killed in an automobile accident April 30, 1936. Funeral services were held at Baker, Sunday, May 4, and the body was brought to Ontario for interment. Graveside service was conducted by the local Masonic Lodge, of which he had long been a member and past master.

Ruth Lampkin married Robert Bradford. They reside in Cottage Grove. The youngest daughter, Thelma, is the wife of Lloyd Gregg, manager of an automobile agency in Van Nuys, California. With their three sons they reside at 13138 Magnolia Avenue. Thel Lampkin, recently married, conducts the large Lampkin farm in North Powder valley.

McCoy Bros., Ed L. and Eugene, opened a grocery store in Ontario and later consolidated with the grocery department of Rader's store. Not long thereafter, Frank Rader took over their interests and McCoy Bros. opened a grocery store in Nyssa.

Wilson Bros., with Ray as manager, opened a grocery store in the Kiesel brick on the east side of North Main Street, later occupied by the Anderson and Graham department stores. After closing their business here Wilson Bros. conducted stores in Nyssa and Parma.

Frank Rader bought a brick building on the west side of Oregon Street into which he moved his department store from the Wilson brick. In 1925, he opened a dry goods store in Payette while still conducting the Ontario store. His son, Harrison Rader, took over the management of the Ontario store. After several years illness from heart trouble Frank Rader died at his home February 21, 1934. His funeral took place from Blessed Sacrament church with interment in the Catholic cemetery. Mrs. Rader died from a heart attack while visiting at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Leona Pearson, in Berkeley, California, May 6, 1942. The body was returned to Ontario where funeral services were conducted from the Catholic church with burial in the Catholic cemetery by the side of her husband. The Raders were the parents of four children: Bernard Rader and Mrs. Paul Van Petten, both of Ontario; F. Harrison Rader, of Berkeley, California, and Mrs. Leona Pearson.

For fifty years Frank Rader was engaged in the mercantile business in Kansas, Idaho and Oregon, twenty-eight years of which he was a leading Ontario merchant. He served a number of years on the city council, was a member of the school board, the civic relief organization and held other important positions. Mr. Rader, sixty-seven years old at the time of his death, was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Henry Griffin, of the Henderson, Kentucky, colony, came west in 1894 to join two of his older brothers, Oscar and Lockett Griffin, on lower Willow creek. He came to Ontario about 1906 and bought John Landingham's draying business and later became the first agent of the Standard Oil Com-

pany. In 1912, he opened the Ontario Coal Company, which he operated with the draying business until ill health forced him to retire in 1935. He was married to Miss Mary Hatfield, of Boise, in November, 1919. He died in Pendleton, January 24, 1937, and is buried in the Ontario cemetery. He was the son of L. W. and Fanny Griffin. The latter was a sister of the centenarian, the late Louisa E. Jones. After the death of his mother in Kentucky, his father married again and a few years later brought his family to this county. Besides his widow, Henry Griffin is survived by a sister, Mrs. Ora Hoffman, of Juntura; and a brother, James Griffin, residing in California; also, two-half-sisters and two half-brothers. His two brothers, Oscar and Lockett, and a sister, Mrs. Mary High, formerly of Vale, are deceased. She was the wife of Frank High, pioneer Vale business man.

John Landingham, who had disposed of his dray business soon engaged in draying again which occupation he followed until his death June 7, 1920. He was survived by his widow, Sadie, and two children, Mrs. Ruby Tomlinson, widow of the late V. W. Tomlinson; a son, Earl. Earl Landingham met death while working on a power line near Los Angeles, California, in 1935. Mrs. Sadie Landingham, a sister of Mrs. Elizabeth Canfield, and her daughter Ruby, reside in Portland.

J. W. McCulloch, who had defeated William Miller for district attorney, moved his law office from Vale to Ontario. After his defeat Judge Miller went to Seaside, where he resided until his death, about 1912.

Not long after McCulloch came from Vale, Dalton Biggs came from Burns to open a law office in Ontario. In 1908, he defeated the incumbent, Judge George E. Davis, of Vale, for circuit judge of Malheur, Grant and Harney counties. Judge Biggs died in office while serving his second term. He was born in Louisana, Missouri, December 18, 1874, the son of James D. and Lucy Biggs. He attended common school in his native town and in Kirkwood and Pike College in Bowling Green, Missouri, from 1888 to 1892. He was admitted to the bar and served as deputy district attorney from 1898 to 1900. He was married to Miss Pheobe Lowery at Bowling Green, December 28, 1899. In 1900, he came to Harney county and after being admitted to the Oregon bar was a law partner of his brother, John Biggs, from 1900 to 1906, when he came with his family to Ontario. He was an older brother of the present circuit judge, M. A. Biggs, and the father of two prominent attorneys, Hugh and James Biggs. His widow, Mrs. Pheobe Biggs resides in Payette.

When the Malheur Valley railroad was put in operation between Ontario and Vale the first crew of the combination passenger and freight train were: engineer, W. W. Rose; conductor, Miller; with Emil David brakeman. Engineer Jacobs succeeded Rose and in turn was relieved by J. R. Rasmussen, who came from Montpelier, Idaho, with his wife and two children, Boyd and Marie. Mr. Rasmussen became the senior pioneer engineer on the On-

tario-Burns run. The two pioneer conductors on the same run were Paul Cayou and Leland Ready; both retired in 1944. Mr. Ready's son, Lieutenant Thomas Ready, an army aviator in World War II, was killed in a plane crash over Pandaveswar, India, April 23, 1944.

Ed Nelson was the first section foreman assigned to Ontario and resided with his family here a number of years. Later he was transferred to the Boise branch line and makes his home in the Boise valley.

In 1906, Ward Canfield and James Butler opened the first exclusive grain and feed store in Ontario. About two years later they acquired ownership of the F. J. Kiesel brick on north Main Street. Canfield later conducted a plumbing shop which he sold to H. L. Poorman. Poorman was succeeded by O. E. Olsen.

In 1907, O. E. Olsen opened a plumbing shop that was first occupied as an office by the J. T. Clement lumber yard. Henry R. Udick came with his family from Colorado in 1909 and went to work for Olsen. Later he bought the shop which he operated until 1937. Mr. Udick died March 21, 1943. His widow still resides in this vicinity. Their son, William H., was with the army air force in World War II, and was killed in action. He was twenty-five years old at the time of his death and had previously been awarded the army air medal. He was a native son of Ontario and graduated from the high school.

H. M. Fields, father of Julian M. Fields, for a time was engaged in the jewelry business in Ontario and later took up a homestead on Dead Ox flat and followed farming.

A. Grames, a pioneer farmer and later state highway foreman, came to this locality from Hood River in 1908 and purchased the G. L. King farm west of town and for over forty years has made his home in this immediate vicinity. Mr. and Mrs. Grames celebrated their golden wedding in November, 1939. They are the parents of Walter, deceased; Marlin, Ernest, Fred and Charles, and Mrs. Duncan Fraser. Walter Grames' widow is the former Jennie Bull. Mrs. A. Grames died May 9, 1949, at the age of eighty years.

In 1908, Austin McWilliams came from Payette to operate the Ontario livery barn and feed stable. He still resides in this locality.

Dr. A. G. Moore, Ontario's first veterinary, still resides here. For a number of years he was county stock inspector with headquarters at the Ontario livery barn. His wife, Mrs. Gertrude Wells Moore, for years has been a teacher in the Ontario schools and is principal of the eastside school. Their only son, Hagan, also a teacher, resides at Grants Pass.

Following the departure of Dr. M. Pfefferle the next dentist to locate in Ontario was Dr. C. E. Frye, followed in turn by Drs. Goldsbury, W. H. Howe, J. E. Sharpe and C. M. Tyler.

William McBratney succeeded Walter Clevenger in the furniture and undertaking business, and was succeeded himself by A. L. McDowell. After

disposing of the business McDowell went to Western Oregon. McBratney located in Boise where he continued in the undertaking business.

James Eshom came from Weiser and had charge of the butcher shop when it was first opened by Knapp & Belding for a time. Mr. and Mrs. Eshom and their daughter, Della, are deceased. H. H. Tunny took over the Ontario Meat Market and Ole Rood was engaged as meat cutter. Frank P. Ryan and his brother-in-law, H. G. Rinerson, came from Juntura and succeeded Tunney as proprietors of the Ontario Meat Market and Grocery. Mr. Ryan, who filled the office of city recorder for many years, resigned because of ill health in 1949. Mr. Rinerson lives in Portland.

J. M. Babcock married Mrs. V. V. Stone. A few years later, following Babcock's death, his widow married Henry Byers, a sheepman. Mr. Byers bought the R. A. Beagle forty-acre tract, originally the southwest quarter of the T. D. Barton homestead. Richard A. Beagle, with his brother, Will, and their mother, Mrs. Kate Beagle, came from Nebraska about 1900. Mrs. R. A. Beagle's father, C. W. Downs, and her two brothers, Frank and George, were also members of the Nebraska colony. R. A. Beagle was night marshal under City Marshal Robert Odell. My wife, Laura Beagle, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Beagle.

A number of Minnesotians located in the vicinity and engaged in farming, including C. E. Bingham, C. A. Keefe, C. E. and H. C. Secoy. Bingham organized and operated the Concrete Pipe Company. He now makes his home in Caldwell. In 1913, Orrin Bull, father of Mrs. H. C. Secoy and Mrs. C. A. Keefe, came from Minnesota and for the next seventeen years resided on a farm he had converted from raw sagebrush land into an attractive well-cultivated place. Other members of his family besides those mentioned were his wife, and children, Schyler G., Earl V., Jennie J., and Hazel E. Orrin Bull died in October, 1930, after nearing the venerable age of eighty-seven years. His wife had preceded him in death.

Charles E. Kenyon acquired the interest of E. H. Test in the First National Bank about 1908 and succeeded Mr. Test as cashier. Mr. Kenyon, a native of Missouri, came west when a young man with his brother, Sam, and farmed in the vicinity of Drewsey. For some time he was bookkeeper for the P. L. & S. Company at the Agency ranch; he also served as county clerk of Harney county and engaged in banking in Burns. When A. L. Cockrum and his sons came from Oklahoma in 1912, Mr. Kenyon sold them his interests in the bank. A. L. Cockrum became president of the financial institution. His sons, Harry L. and Lee, became cashier and assistant cashier, respectively. C. E. Kenyon went to Western Oregon and became cashier of the Commercial State Bank at Springfield. He resigned Saturday, June 6, 1931, at the request of the state superintendent of banks, when a bank examiner charged irregularities and the bank was taken over

by the state. That night Mr. Kenyon ended his life by cutting his throat in a bathtub at his home. He was survived by his wife and only son, Charles Kenyon, Jr.

Robert M. Duncan, born at Coben, Illinois, April 2, 1884, when a youth came with his parents to Salem, where he attended public school and graduated from the Willamette University law school in 1909. Following his graduation he came to Ontario and formed a law partnership with J. W. McCulloch. About 1913, they opened a second law office in Vale with Mr. Duncan in charge. On May 28, 1914, R. M. Duncan was married to Miss Edna Mae Williams, a native daughter of Jordan valley and a graduate of the Ontario high school. To them were born two sons, Ralph D. and Ivan M. Mr. Duncan enlisted in World War I in 1918 and attended officer's training school at the Presido, San Francisco, and was later stationed at Camp Lewis, Washington, where he was promoted to captain. At the close of the war he opened a law office in Burns. In 1932, he was elected state senator for Malheur, Grant and Harney counties, and was re-elected for a second term. He was chosen president of the state senate in 1939. Upon the death of Judge Charles W. Ellis in 1940, R. M. Duncan was appointed circuit judge by Governor Sprague for the Ninth Judicial District and was elected to the position at the next general election. Judge Duncan died from heart ailment, with which he had been afflicted for more than a year, at his home in Burns, August 4, 1943. He is survived by his widow and two sons, Lieutenant Ivan Duncan, a combat pilot, who saw service under General Chenault in China and was awarded medals for bravery. Lieutenant Ralph Duncan served with the engineers.

Otto G. Luehrs came with his family from Iowa in 1909 and was employed as a druggist in the Ontario Pharmacy until 1918 when he opened the O. G. Luehrs Drugs Store on the east side of North Main Street, which he conducted until a short time before his death. He purchased the C. R. Peterson farm west of the fair grounds where he made his home for thirty-five years. Mr. Luehrs was born September 27, 1873. He was educated in the schools of Sioux City, Iowa, and graduated from Northwestern University, Chicago, where he received his degree as a pharmacist in 1893.

In 1897, Mr. Luehrs was married to Miss Rose Wilson. To them were born two daughters and four sons. Mrs. Luehrs died after they came to Ontario in 1917. In 1918, he married Miss Effie Orcutt. To them two sons were born. For twenty-three years Mr. Luehrs was a member of the Ontario school board and was the first chairman of the war rationing board. He was an active member of the Commercial and Kiwanis clubs and took great interest in public affairs. He was also deeply interested in wild game life and developed a 600-acre refuge farm to provide feed and protection for migratory fowls and native game birds. Mr. Luehrs passed away, following a lingering illness, at his home February 14, 1944, at the age of 71 years. Be-

sides his wife, he is survived by six sons: Karl, of Lugo, Washington; Robert Luehrs, of the Medical Corps Naval Reserve; Ensign Herbert Luehrs, U. S. Navy; Richard Luehrs, U. S. Medical Reserve; Lieutenant Clifford and Technical Sergeant Jack Luehrs, of the Air Forces.

Arthur W. Trow, who came from Minnesota to engage in the real estate business, was elected mayor of Ontario in December, 1911, with the following councilmen: E. A. Fraser, C. E. Kenyon, A. Zimmerman, G. W. Long and J. R. Gregg. The same councilmen were re-elected for a second term, with Mayor Trow, with the exception of A. Zimmerman, who was succeeded by L. B. Frye. Harry B. Gaul, who had purchased W. E. Loomis' jewelry store, was named city recorder and A. M. Lackey city marshal. During his second term Mayor Trow named ex-sheriff Robert Odell city marshal.

Thomas H. Moore, builder of the Moore hotel and a number of other brick business structures in Ontario, was a native of Michigan, in which state he followed logging, timber cruising and merchandising a number of years before coming to the Northwest. He first came to the state of Washington where he engaged in timber operations, later going to Western Oregon. He came to Ontario from Medford in 1909, and acquired considerable property in the business section and erected a number of brick buildings besides the mammoth brick hotel that still bears his name. About 1933, Mr. Moore, then well past seventy years of age, retired from business and continued farming until shortly before his death at Holy Rosary hospital following a brief illness, February 16, 1943, at the advanced age of eighty-four.

Mr. Moore had been married twice. Before leaving Michigan he was married to Miss Lillian Simmons. To them three children were born. The eldest, Theodore, has for some years been a prominent Ontario business man. The second son, John, resides in Coquille. Martin died in 1928. Their mother died in Western Oregon before the family came here. T. H. Moore married his second wife, Miss Nellie McIntyre, in Medford, to whom one son, Homer, was born. The second wife died shortly before Mr. Moore and his sons came to Ontario. Homer died not long after the family came here. The large five-story brick Moore hotel, Malheur county's largest, stands as a monument to one of Ontario's capable, energetic businessmen and builders.

Miss Stella DuClos, who came to Ontario from Medford in 1909 as housekeeper for T. H. Moore, took charge of the Lohead apartments in 1915. In 1926, she became landlady for the Wilson Ontario hotel and changed the name to the Colonial Hotel because of its colonial structure. This three-story frame building was dismantled in the autumn of 1944. Miss DuClos was a native of Nebraska, where her parents died when she was a little girl. When a young woman, she came west and had resided in Medford for fourteen years before coming to Ontario. She died at Holy Rosary hospital

June 25, 1932, at the age of 59 years. She had resided in Ontario twenty-two years.

W. F. Homan came from Iowa in 1910, to accept the position of cashier of the Ontario National Bank. Mrs. Homan died in 1911, leaving him with four small children, two boys and two girls. Mr. Homan was elected to the legislature in 1912 on the democratic ticket, and was chosen mayor in 1914 to succeed Mayor A. W. Trow. He appointed C. M. Stearns city recorder and Marion Jones city Marshal. Mr. Homan, who married a second time in Ontario, now resides in Long Beach, California.

Harry C. Farmer, who had been chief of the fire department for some time, soon succeeded Marion Jones as city marshal and ably filled the position of peace officer for the next thirty-three years, serving under six different mayors. Marshal Farmer retired after having reached the age limit in June, 1947. He was succeeded by the present city marshal, Asie Gunderson, a native of Malheur county and the son of pioneer parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gunderson.

About 1910, J. T. McNulty opened a hardware store in the part of the A. M. Lackey building formerly occupied by Rader Bros. & Lampkin. About 1914, J. C. McCright became associated with McNulty in the hardware business. This establishment is now Keeney Bros. & Keele's hardware store, still occupying the original quarters in the Lackey building.

Thomas W. Claggett, who as agent of the Eastern Oregon Land Company, had conducted an office in Vale for some time, moved his office to Ontario in 1910 and opened headquarters in the Wilson building. He was a leading business man of the county for years until his death. Mrs. Claggett still resides in Ontario.

The same year T. W. Claggett came from Vale, W. T. Davidson came from St. Paul, Minnesota, and opened offices for the Oregon-Western Colonization Company in both Ontario and Vale. Fred W. Bailey, whose father was a large stockholder in the company, also came from Minnesota to improve some of the company's land and since then has been one of the most substantial farmers of this locality.

Samuel D. Dorman, brother-in-law of F. W. Bailey, came from St. Paul and became one of the prominent business men and farmers. Mr. Dorman was born in Swanton, Vermont, October 17, 1870. When a young man he went to St. Paul where he was employed in the jewelry store of his uncle. In 1892, he went to Mexico where he became manager of a coffee plantation. In 1898, he returned to St. Paul and married Miss Florence Bailey. He continued to operate the coffee plantation until the Mexican revolution of 1908 when he returned with his family to St. Paul. In 1910, the Dormans came to Ontario and purchased a farm southwest of town under the Ontario-Nyssa irrigation project. They built an attractive home in Villa Park. Mr. Dorman went into the sheep business. In 1912, he opened the Dreamland mo-

tion picture theatre and operated it until 1917. For years, until the time of his death, he was a director of the Ontario-Nyssa Irrigation Company. He served two terms on the city council and was a director of *Oregon Co-operative Wool Growers*. In 1934, he opened a real estate and insurance office in the Moore Hotel block, which he was operating with H. J. Sloan at the time of his death. Mr. Dorman died at Holy Rosary hospital April 8, 1939, at the age of 69 years. He is survived by his widow and two children, Frank B., and Mrs. Southwell.

Dr. H. H. Whitney, a native of Massachusetts, opened an office in Ontario in 1910. Mrs. Whitney, at the time of their marriage, was a trained nurse. After ten years they moved to Burlingame, California, where they resided until the doctor's death, August 21, 1948.

George McClain and Miss Vera Morrison were married in Logansport, Indiana, January 1, 1910. That spring they came from near Chicago to Ontario where Mr. McClain engaged in carpenter work. A year or two later he assumed management of the local Boise-Payette Lumber Company. Mrs. McClain died March 19, 1931, at the age of 44. The McClains had two sons and two daughters. Mr. McClain still makes his home in Ontario.

The Christensen brothers, Len, Albert and Mark, came from Utah and for some time were associated in a barber shop. Albert returned to Utah. Mark is now in the employ of the Van Petten Lumber Company. Len Christensen was instrumental in organizing the Latter Day Saint's church and was the first bishop. He is still engaged in the barber business and since the retirement of Amos K. Johnson, is the senior tonsorial artist of Ontario.

During the five year period, from 1909 to 1914, a number of enterprising businessmen came to the city, among them T. H. Moore, W. H. Laxon, H. L. Peterson, E. C. Van Petten, A. W. Trow, R. W. Jones, Frank P. Ryan, T. W. Claggett, S. D. Dorman, W. J. Pinney, George W. McClain, S. F. Taylor, and M. E. Newton. During that period Ontario experienced its greatest era of business activity, growth and prosperity until recent years. Of the business men of that day Harry L. Peterson, Ray W. Jones and E. C. Van Petten "are still doing business at the same old stand."

William H. Laxon, "Toggery Bill," who came from Illinois in 1910, and opened a clothing store continued in the enterprise for the next thirty-six years, until February, 1947, when he sold his store to R. F. Van Ormen and Art Auger. Since the death of Cliff Boyer and the retirement of "Bill" Laxon, Harry L. Peterson holds the record of having been engaged in one enterprise in the city longer than any other present-day merchant.

Harry L. Peterson was born in Council Grove, Kansas, November 10, 1874. His parents were Louis, a native of Sweden, and May Smith Peterson. Harry learned the furniture and undertaking trade in his native town. On July 22, 1910, he was united in marriage at Kansas City to Miss Myrtle B. Clemons, a native of Council Grove. She is the daughter of Elmer and

Mary Clemons. Her father was a native of Indiana and her mother, whose maiden name was Cole, was born in Ohio.

The Petersons came west from their native town of Council Grove in 1910 to Twin Falls, and from there to Ontario, February 2, 1911. In partnership with T. H. Moore, Mr. Peterson opened the Ontario Furniture Company at its present location. About a year later Mr. Peterson bought Moore's interest in the establishment and since then it has been known as the Peterson Furniture Company. Later Mr. Peterson installed furniture stores in Payette, Vale and Nyssa. Harry Peterson has taken a leading role in the civic and fraternal life of the city. He was elected a member of the city council the year following his arrival and has served as a member of the school board. He was active in organizing the *First Mortgage Building and Loan Association*; was elected its first president and has filled the position ever since. He is past president of the *Retail Credit Association*; a director of the Commercial and Kiwanis clubs; a trustee of Acacia Masonic Lodge and the Congregational church. Mrs. Peterson is also a leading member of the church and fraternal societies. They are the parents of William L. and Katherine M. Peterson. William is manager of his father's Ontario store and Katherine is in charge of the Nyssa store. William's wife is the former Lois Bailey.

In 1912, the year after H. L. Peterson opened his furniture store, E. C. Van Petten with his family, consisting of his wife and two young sons, Paul and Frank, came from Ponca City, Oklahoma, and opened the Van Petten Lumber Yard. Mr. Van Petten was born in the vicinity of Peoria, Illinois, September 14, 1873, the son of N. V. and Clara Van Petten; both natives of Peoria. On June 1, 1896, E. C. Van Petten and Miss Bertha Rowles were joined in wedlock at Kingman, Kansas. She and her parents, William and Elizabeth Rowles, were all natives of Pennsylvania. The Van Petten Lumber Company has established branch yards in various towns in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, with the head office in Ontario.

Mr. Van Petten, still quite active for a man of seventy-six years, has retired as manager, which position has been taken over by his eldest son, Paul E. Van Petten. The younger son, Frank N., is deceased. Paul E. Van Petten married Miss Irene Rader, daughter of the late Frank and Daisy Rader. During his thirty-seven years residence in Ontario, E. C. Van Petten is one of the city's most substantial citizens, he has been a prominent leader in public affairs. He was the one most instrumental in obtaining government aid for building the Owyhee irrigation project. For five years he worked on the project making many trips to Washington, D.C., to interest Congress and government officials in endorsing the enterprise. He has been particularly active in promoting irrigation development of arid lands in the lower Snake river valley and has served several terms as president of the Ontario

Commercial Club. He has steadfastly declined to run for public office, including the republican nomination for congress.

Mrs. Van Petten is a prominent leader in civic and social affairs and for several years has ably filled the position of president of *The Woman's Club*. This association of prominent women of the city was organized many years ago under the name of the *Work and Win Club*. About the only remaining charter members of the original club are past presidents, Mrs. L. Adam and Mrs. J. R. Blackaby. The present officials of the club, elected May 1, 1948, are: Mrs. E. C. Van Petten, president; Mrs. F. E. Barber, vice-president; Mrs. Ted Berreth, auditor; Mrs. Fred Olmstead, secretary, and Mrs. Harry L. Peterson, treasurer.

In 1911, two young men, R. W. Jones and W. J. Brunger, who were looking for a suitable location, came to Ontario and installed the county's first steam laundry. A concrete building was erected in the northwest part of town, large enough and fully equipped with necessary machinery to accommodate a city of 10,000. Mr. Jones took over the interest of his partner in the Ontario Laundry and Mr. Brunger went to Boise where he continued in the laundry business.

Ray Jones is a native of the Hawkeye State. His father was a prominent official of the Chicago Burlington & Quincy railway. R. W. Jones married Miss Ellen Taylor, youngest daughter of Colonel Sam F. Taylor. They are the parents of two children, the son, Wallace, saw active service in World War II in both Europe and the Orient. The daughter is the wife of Dr. Smith, a Seattle physician. R. W. Jones succeeded W. F. Homan as mayor and filled the office for two consecutive terms, from 1917 to 1921.

The present city hall was built in 1912 at the time A. W. Trow was mayor. That year Holy Rosary hospital was built and dedicated by the bishop of the Baker diocese. A \$200,000 addition was constructed in 1947-48. The hospital is staffed by fourteen Dominican sisters, all registered nurses, and ten additional nurses, with twenty-five aides, making a total of forty-nine on the nursing staff, and seventeen doctors in the area on the medical staff. The hospital cared for 2,878 patients in 1948.

The ranking member of the Ontario medical profession is Dr. W. J. Weese, who came to Ontario about the time the hospital was founded and became associated with Dr. Prinzing. Dr. Weese is head of the Ontario Clinic, whose offices for years were in the J. A. Lackey building. His associates are Drs. C. E. Palmer, R. R. Belknap, L. H. Emmett, J. R. Farber, C. L. Cade and W. Saunders. They now occupy their own substantial structure, 195 SW Third Avenue.

In 1911, W. J. Pinney came from Minnesota and for some time was agent for Oregon-Western Colonization Company, with headquarters in the Wilson building. He served sometime as secretary of the Ontario Commercial club and was engaged in the real estate business until shortly before

his death. He died at the home of his son, Marcus Pinney, in Pendleton, February 26, 1944. He was preceded in death by Mrs. Pinney, who died while on a visit to their daughter, Miss Marie Pinney, in Los Angeles, November 21, 1942. Both are buried in Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, California.

In 1913, E. W. Howland and H. A. Roberts opened the Cash Grain Company in a large storage building on the railroad right-of-way near the Oregon Short Line freight house. Mr. Howland had been an Infantry captain in the Spanish-American War. J. C. McCright, the hardware merchant, had been an army lieutenant in the same conflict. At the beginning of World War I they organized the Ontario home guard, after an alleged attempt to blow up one of the railroad bridges north of town. Guards had been placed at both bridges. One of the guards fired a number of shots while stationed at the smaller bridge. When the other guard came he declared he had shot a man attempting to plant dynamite and the man had fallen from the bridge into the river. He alleged the man had a confederate who escaped on a horse riding toward town. It was late at night and a horseman was reported to have been seen riding south out of town. Investigation revealed the guard had hired a boy to ride through town to back up his story. The boy confessed and the guard was convicted.

Howland was chosen commander of the home guard with McCright second in command. I was a member of the company. As postmaster I was named recruiting officer and enlisted a number of volunteers. Dr. J. Prinzing, who latter joined the armed forces as a physician, was examining physician for the recruits.

A. N. Andrews, who was employed by the Cash Grain Company, was promoted to manager and later became owner. The firm is still doing business on South Oregon Street under the name of the A. N. Andrews Feed & Grain Company. Mr. Andrews ranks next to H. L. Peterson, R. W. Jones and E. C. Van Petten in continually conducting one of the oldest business establishments still operating in the city.

The oldest business establishment, conducted under different owners at various times, is the Ontario Pharmacy. Art Auger is the present owner. Next in line comes the Carter House, Laxon Clothing Store, Ontario Steam Laundry, Peterson Furniture Store, Boise-Payette Lumber Company, and the Van Petten Lumber Company.

W. W. Wood, who had his law offices in Canyon City for some time, came to Ontario in 1913 and for awhile was associated with J. W. McCulloch and R. M. Duncan and later conducted an office alone. In 1922, he was the republican candidate for circuit judge, but was defeated by Judge Dalton Biggs, democrat, who was running for re-election. Upon the death of Judge

Biggs in 1928, Attorney Wood was appointed his successor and was elected to the judgeship the following fall. Judge Wood was elected for a second six-year term and served until the time of his death, December 2, 1934.

Judge Wood, a native of Iowa, was appointed to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. After attending the academy for two years he took up the study of law. He came west and taught school in Grant county until he was admitted to the bar in 1900. On October 8, 1901, Judge Wood was married to Miss Annie McHaley, youngest child of George W. and Mary S. McHaley. She was a native Oregonian. Her father, an early day pioneer, came to Oregon in the first wagon train to travel the Oregon Trail the entire distance, in 1843, which was piloted by Dr. Whitman. Judge and Mrs. Wood were the parents of two daughters, Inez and Leila Eleanor. The former married William E. Lees, Jr. With her son, William Wood Lees, she resides in Portland. Eleanor, wife of W. L. Karrer, resides with her husband in Lewiston. Mrs. Wells W. Wood preceded her husband in death July 21, 1932.

About 1913, Ralph W. Swagler came from Wisconsin and a little later formed a law partnership with W. H. Brooke. In 1914, Swagler was elected district attorney on the democratic ticket, defeating R. M. Duncan, republican. About this time, Ralph W. Eckhart became associated with J. W. McCulloch in law practice. About 1925, Swagler went to Los Angeles and is now located in Burbank, California. Eckhart also went to Los Angeles in 1925, and later located in San Bernardino, California, where he died in 1928.

P. J. Gallagher, next to W. H. Brooke, is the oldest pioneer attorney still practicing his profession in Ontario. Pat came direct from South Dakota with his family to Burns in 1913, and located at Juntura in July of the same year where he opened a law office and became the first city attorney of Juntura. In partnership with M. A. Byrd, a brother of Julian M. Byrd, editor of the *Burns Times-Herald*, they established the *Juntura Times*. At that time, the town had only two stores and the railroad, building through the Malheur canyon, had not reached Juntura. Mr. Byrd was appointed postmaster.

In 1915, Mr. Gallagher brought his family to Ontario and opened a law office and since has served a number of terms as city attorney. In 1918, he was elected representative in the Oregon legislature and was re-elected in 1920. Besides serving in the regular legislative sessions of 1919 and 1921, he served in two special sessions in 1920. In 1936, the Gallaghers moved to Portland but returned to Ontario in 1940, since which time he has been associated with his son, Martin P. Gallagher, in the legal profession. Martin P. Gallagher, following in the foot-steps of his father in both law and politics, was elected to the legislature in 1946 and served through 1948.

Mrs. P. J. Gallagher takes a leading part in the *Malheur County Republican Women's Club* and in church work. The eldest daughter, Cecelia, is

a member of the legal profession. Cecelia and her attorney husband, John D. Galey, reside in Sweet Home, Oregon. The second daughter, Evelyn and her husband, Victor D. Carlson, live in Washington, D. C. The youngest daughter, Claire and her husband, Henry M. Swartwood, make their home in Anacortes, Washington. The second son, Thomas P., resides in Seattle, Washington.

Patrick J. Gallagher, son of Thomas and Cecelia Gallagher, was born in Lewiston, Minnesota, November 3, 1884. The father was a native of County Mayo, Ireland, and his mother's birthplace was La Crosse, Wisconsin. P. J. Gallagher and Florence Hall were married in Midland, South Dakota, January 7, 1907. Her parents were John and Emily Booth Hall.

Judge Frank P. Ryan, who for many years so proficiently filled the office of Ontario city recorder and police magistrate, came to Malheur county in 1914. He first located in Juntura, where he conducted one of the first general merchandise stores in that town. Before the above date he had owned and operated the same kind of establishment at McMinnville. Before coming to Oregon, Mr. Ryan had served as Justice of the Peace and Assistant postmaster at Midland, South Dakota. He was also postmaster at Juntura. From Juntura he came to Ontario to conduct a grocery store and meat market, thus being engaged in mercantile business for a total of nineteen years. In 1924, he was elected a member of the Ontario city council and filled that office until 1928. In 1935, he was chosen city recorder and for the next fourteen years proficiently filled the office until January 1, 1949, when he retired because of ill health. In this official capacity he was named lobbyist for Oregon cities during the 1945 and 1947 sessions of the Oregon legislature. Mr. Ryan was elected president of the *Oregon Finance Officers Association* at the annual meeting in La Grande October 14, 1947.

Francis P. Ryan was born March 13, 1883, the youngest of thirteen children. His father, Daniel Ryan, was born at College Hill County Tipperary, Ireland, in 1829, and became a naturalized U. S. citizen February 2, 1859. His mother, Bridget Hunt Ryan, was also a native of Tipperary. They were married in Troy, New York, in 1862. Frank Ryan and Grace Anna Orris married in Midland, South Dakota, June 16, 1909. The place of her birth was Lohrville, Iowa. Her parents were David Orris, a native of Pennsylvania, and Sarah Hughes Orris, a native of Illinois.

The F. P. Ryans had four children. The two sons died young. Francis P., Jr., died at the age of two years, and Joseph M., at the age of four years. The eldest daughter, Claire Aileen, is now Mrs. L. B. Ackerman, of Moses Lake, Washington. Her husband is construction engineer in charge of construction of Pot Hole Dam, which will be as large as Coulee Dam. The youngest daughter, May M. Ryan, is now the wife of Robert R. Butson, who



operates an accounting office in Ontario and is manager of the Veterans Housing project.

In 1914, Colonel S. F. Taylor came with his family from Idaho Falls and bought the interests of J. R. Gregg and Ben Crummett in the real estate and insurance firm of Brown & Gregg. Upon the death of A. A. Brown in 1916, Colonel Taylor continued the business until compelled to retire because of poor health. He was a Confederate veteran of the Civil War and came to Idaho soon after the close of that conflict from his Missouri home to engage in stock raising, including blooded race horses. He was one of the first sheriffs of Bannock county, Idaho, and later a senator in the Idaho territorial legislature. As sheriff in the days of "the wild and wooly west," he took into custody some of "the bad men" without the use of fire-arms. He gained the reputation of being the only western sheriff of that period who did not carry a gun. Colonel Taylor was the father of Sam F. Taylor, of the Taylor Coffee Shop; Mrs. R. W. Jones and Jack Taylor, of Ontario; and Mrs. Betsy Brogan of Portland. Mr. and Mrs. Sam F. Taylor, Sr., rest in Evergreen cemetery.

Ontario advanced from a third-class to a second-class postoffice in 1913. J. R. Gregg was appointed postmaster in 1914 by President Wilson to succeed Postmaster A. L. Sproul, republican, who had held the office for thirteen years. The year following the postoffice was moved from the lower floor of the Odd Fellows building south nearly two blocks to the lower part of the Wilson building. Soon thereafter the rural route was extended west past the C. W. Mallett ranch and Dick Stover succeeded O. F. Neece as the rural carrier. Neece was transferred into the postoffice as a postal clerk. Gregg was re-appointed postmaster in 1918. Shortly after the close of World War I, Stanley J. Millikin, who had seen service with the armed forces over seas, was appointed rural carrier to succeed Stover who had resigned.

Stanley J. Millikin, the present assistant postmaster, who transferred into the office from carrier, is the eldest son of John S. and Hannah Shaw Millikin, born in 1891. His parents pioneered in the lower Owyhee country, where the father, J. S. Millikin, was one of the eight men who made irrigation possible in that locality.

In the year 1900, the family moved to Ontario and Stanley attended school. He graduated from high school in 1911, after which he attended Oregon State College for three years. After serving overseas in the first world war he came back to Ontario to work for the postoffice department as rural mail carrier. Mr. Millikin has always taken an active interest in the youth of the community, one phrase of which has been managing the American Legion Junior baseball team.

Ontario Fourth of July Parade on Oregon Street in 1913

His father, John S. Millikin, died in Ontario in 1929. Mrs. Millikin survived her husband twenty years, until called by death at Holy Rosary hospital February 7, 1949, only about eight months before she would have been one hundred years old. She was born in Emelton, Pennsylvania, October 7, 1849, and for the last sixty years of her long life she had dwelt in Malheur county. The survivors are three sons, Stanley J. and Damon, of Ontario; Kenneth, of Altadena, California; three daughters, Mrs. Ethel Maxon and Mrs. Murel McCutcheon, of Ontario; Mrs. Stella Say, of Hillsboro.

David W. Powers, Sr., one of Ontario's most prominent businessmen, came to Oregon on July 7, 1906, and to Ontario on March 31, 1918, and is still engaged in business in the city. Mr. Powers opened the first wholesale grocery store in Ontario the year he came here for the Davidson Grocery Company of Boise. For the next twenty years he managed this large wholesale establishment until September, 1939. He then bought the Stockwell retail grocery, that had formerly been owned by the late E. A. Fraser. This store was first established in 1895 as the R. D. Greer & Co., that later became the Malheur Mercantile Co. Mr. Powers gave his store the name of the Ontario Groceteria and operated the firm for nine years then sold to Ralph Emison, in 1948. In July of that year, Mr. Emison sold to Shelby D. Dukes, of Boise. Mr. Powers has an interest in the Valley Wholesale and Warehouse Company, of Ontario, and owns a retail store in Parma.

The date and place of Dave Powers' birth is Chaldron, Nebraska, June 13, 1886. His parents were D. W. and Elizabeth Falconer Powers. His wife's maiden name was Anna Aikens. Their three children are Catherine, Pauline and David W. Powers, Jr. Catherine and her husband, John D. MacGillivray, an attorney, reside in Spokane. Pauline and her husband, Dr. Harold Fisher, M.D., live in San Diego. David W., Jr., and his wife, the former Betty Lou Hager, reside in Ontario.

About the time Dave Powers opened the Davidson Wholesale Grocery store in Ontario, Andy Robinson and wife came from Plymouth, Illinois, and he purchased a meat market from Prinzing & Ultz on the east side of Main Street. In 1920, Mr. Robinson built a brick building in which he conducted his market for a number of years. This building is now occupied by the Pay Less Drug store. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson still reside in the city.

Charles W. Powell, who came to Vale in 1910, brought his family to Ontario in 1917 and engaged in the draying business. Later he was employed by the railroad company for two years in the freight house and for the next twenty-six years was in the employ of the Wholesale Grocery Co. For many years he was a member of the fire department.

Mr. Powell, a native of Illinois, accompanied his parents to Kansas where he grew to manhood. In 1903, he went to Montana where he resided until coming to Oregon. At Vale, on April 19, 1911, he was married to

Miss Grace Thomson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Thomson. Mr. Powell died at Holy Rosary hospital January 5, 1944, at the age of seventy-four and is buried in Evergreen cemetery. Besides his widow he is survived by six children: Floyd W., of Tacoma; Charles Robert, an accomplished musician, who served with the armed forces in Europe during the last war; Fred, who was a chief warrant officer in the South Pacific; Mrs. Garland Christiansen, of Ontario; WAC Corporal Eileen Powell and Phyllis Powell. Mrs. Powell makes her home at their eastside dwelling in Ontario. She is a native daughter of the county.

Elmer Webster, another well-known pioneer citizen, who came to Oregon in 1910, located with his family in Ontario in 1918. Elmer was born in a log cabin in Schuyler county, Missouri, October 22, 1875. His father, William C. Webster, was also a native of Schuyler county and was just ten years old when the Civil War broke out. His mother, Mary Masters, was a native of Iowa. They were married in Schuyler county in 1874. Elmer Webster and Myrtle D. Foglesong were married in Lancaster, Missouri, September 9, 1906. Mrs. Webster's birthplace is Fremont, Nebraska. Her father, Thomas Foglesong, was a native of Iowa. Her mother, Julia, was born in North Carolina. Mr. Webster has been with the Ontario Wholesale Grocery Company since February 28, 1918, and is now the company's stock clerk. He joined the company shortly after it was opened in Ontario by David W. Powers as the Davidson Wholesale Grocery Co.

The Websters are the parents of a son and daughter. The son, Raymond, had five years experience as x-ray technician with the Doctor's Clinic in Ontario before assuming a similar position in the Sacred Heart hospital in Spokane. He returned to Ontario July 1, 1948, to associate himself with the Doctor's Clinic. His wife is the former Maxine Holcomb. The daughter, Mildred, is the wife of Firman Scholes, the florist and commercial printer. They have a ten-year-old son, Richard Warren Scholes.

In 1916, Dr. J. C. Bartlett came from Drewsey and opened an office in the Wilson building. About 1935, Dr. Bartlett became interested with ex-President Herbert Hoover in copper mining in the Seven Devils district and retired from the practice of medicine. His wife is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Brown, formerly engaged in the sheep business near Venator. Dr. Bartlett came with his parents to Drewsey in 1886, where for years the parents conducted the Bartlett Hotel. After conducting the hotel for thirty-four years Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Bartlett came to Ontario in 1920. Mr. Bartlett, a Civil War veteran, died on April 15, 1932. His aged widow was recently called by death when nearing the age of ninety-nine years.

Dr. C. M. Tyler, the pioneer dentist, is a native Oregonian, whose birthplace is St. Paul, in Marion county, August 17, 1894, the son of Allen I. and Jennie Earl Tyler. The father was a native of Wisconsin and the mother was born in Portland. They were married in Marion county. Dr. Tyler

and wife, the former Iva Hess, born in Rexburg, Idaho, came with their family to Ontario in 1920, where for the next twenty-five years he followed his profession. During this time the doctor was very active in civic and social affairs. He is a charter member and past president of the Ontario Kiwanis club, past chancellor of the Knights of Pythias and past commander of the American Legion Post of Ontario. For eight years he was chairman of the Malheur county democratic central committee and was chief census enumerator for the U. S. government in the county for the 1940 census.

In 1945, Dr. Tyler retired from dentistry and went to Seaside, where he resided until 1947 when he returned to Malheur county and again entered dental practice at Nyssa. The doctor is an ardent sportsman, hunter and fisherman.

The four Tyler children are Henry, Shirley, Donald E. and Dolores. Henry Tyler's home is now in Roseburg; Shirley and her husband, Wayne Whittle, reside in Pocatello; Donald and Dolores live in Ontario. Donald E. Tyler has completed his third year in medical school and Dolores her second year in college at Provo, Utah.

Joe W. Jarvis, who came to this city with his mother, Mrs. Helen Jarvis, and his two sisters about 1921, graduated from Ontario high school in 1928 and from Oregon Agricultural College in 1932. After teaching agriculture at Amity, Imbler and Union in this state, he became an agricultural agent for the Union Pacific railroad with headquarters in Boise. In 1941, he was promoted to head the company's agricultural department with headquarters in Omaha. His sister, Mary, has for many years been bookkeeper for the H. L. Peterson Furniture Company. Mrs. Jarvis and her daughter, Mary, reside in Ontario.

During the nationwide financial depression in the 1920's the Ontario National Bank was purchased by a prominent Boise banking firm, headed by Crawford Moore, in 1927. In 1930, the Boise capitalists sold the Ontario bank to the United States National Bank of Portland, since which time the Ontario bank has been a branch bank of that gigantic financial institution under the management of Joseph E. Dyer. Mr. Dyer, son of prominent pioneer parents, was head of the seven war loan drives for the government in this county and successfully put all seven of them over the top in World War II. In the drive he was ably assisted by a corps of workers throughout the county, notably among them was Mrs. Fred L. Olmstead, chairman of the Women's Division of the finance committee.

During the 1920 financial depression the First National Bank was compelled to close its doors. A. L. Cockrum and two of his sons, Lee and Arthur, went to Long Beach, California, to reside. The eldest son, H. B. Cockrum, resides in Portland. A. L. Cockrum died at his Long Beach home March 30, 1936.

The C. C. Anderson Golden Rule, of Boise, opened a branch store in

the F. J. Kiesel building on north Main Street. Oscar F. Graham, who was manager of the store for some time, bought the store and it became the Graham Department Store. The C. C. Anderson Co. again engaged in business in Ontario in January, 1945, by purchasing the general retail store of Boyer Bros., at that time the oldest mercantile establishment in the city.

Dr. J. A. McFall, of McFall & Easley, optometrists, is the veteran eye specialist. He succeeded W. W. Letson, who also conducted a jewelry store. The Wyckoff jewelry store is now the oldest in the city. The owner, Mrs. Bessie Wyckoff, also an eye specialist, conducted an office in the city before her marriage to F. Earle Wyckoff, now deceased. She is the daughter of the early-day Dead Ox flat pioneers, the Otto Strobes.

Ray W. Jones succeeded Walter F. Homan as mayor in 1917 and served two terms until 1921. William H. Doolittle, who had been secretary of the commercial club for several years, succeeded Jones and was mayor for four terms, from 1921 to 1929. George K. Aiken succeeded Doolittle as mayor.

After serving two terms of more than eight years as postmaster, J. R. Gregg was succeeded by Mrs. Pauline Platt, republican, in 1922, who was appointed by President Coolidge. She is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Billingsley. Mrs. Platt filled the office for the next thirteen years, a longer period than any other Ontario postmaster. She was succeeded by C. F. Cox, a democrat, named by President F. D. Roosevelt. Mrs. Pauline Platt married Francis Zimmerman. They now reside in Alturus, California, where Mr. Zimmerman is employed in the postoffice, having been transferred there from the Ontario office.

The Moore Hotel first opened with W. L. Sanders as landlord in 1911. Mr. Sanders celebrated the opening with a grand banquet in "the grotto," attended by many of the townspeople and other guests. The restaurant continued in the basement for some time. About two years later, T. H. Moore took over the management of his hotel and operated it until 1924, with but a short intermission. Merritt & Salisbury bought the hotel and conducted it as co-partners from 1927 to 1944. The last year Mr. Merritt sold his interest to Roy Wrinkle, a former landlord of the Carter House. George J. Merritt was one of the organizers and first president of the Inland Empire Hotel Association, embracing hotels in Eastern Oregon, Idaho and Eastern Washington. As a prominent Ontario businessman he was chairman of the committee that installed the present street lighting system in the business district. He is owner of a resort in Sun Valley, Idaho, and has farming interests in the two adjoining states.

As co-owners, Mr. and Mrs. Salisbury and Mr. and Mrs. Wrinkle ran the Moore Hotel from August, 1944 to 1945, when they sold to the present owners, E. J. Nelson, of Weiser, and Don Grafe, of Boise. Mr. Nelson took over the management, while Mr. Grafe, who owns and operates the Oxford Hotel in Boise, remains there.

Ill for several months before his retirement, Harry E. Salisbury died in the local hospital, January 15, 1946. He was elected to the city council in 1942 and was a member of that body until his death. He had been a member of the Malheur county selective service board. Mrs. Salisbury survives her husband. They had been schoolmates before their marriage in Paw Paw, Michigan.

The Ontario Federal building was completed in 1936 and the post-office was moved from the Wilson building that year to its present location. C. F. Cox died October 13, 1942, after less than seven years in office, the last year of which he was an invalid. He was the only Ontario postmaster to die in office. His widow, Mrs. Stella Cox, was appointed in his place as acting postmaster. They are the parents of four children: Lewis Cox, Mrs. John L. Cooney, Mrs. Walter Brown and Mrs. Dorothy Brooke. Mrs. Stella Mason Cox, a native of Iowa, is the daughter of the head of the Mason Buggy Co. She is a talented music instructor and accomplished violinist. In April, 1944, Clinton F. Trow, the present postmaster, took over the postmaster-ship from Mrs. Cox.

C. F. Trow, a republican, was appointed to the position by President F. D. Roosevelt.

Clinton came from his native state of Minnesota to Nyssa December 30, 1908. He soon came to the Ontario vicinity and followed the occupation of ranching, land development and contracting until he was appointed superintendent of city utilities of Ontario, which latter position he filled for twenty years before taking charge of the postoffice.

C. F. Trow, eldest son of Arthur Wyatt Trow and Martha Fidelia Palmer Trow, was born in Glenville, Minnesota, May 30, 1888, where his parents had been united in marriage in 1886. His mother was a native of Wisconsin. C. F. Trow and Margaret Laird Dunbar, a native daughter of Ontario, were married in Payette, Idaho, January 11, 1919. Her parents, David Dunbar and Elizabeth Mary Mason, are both natives of Ontario, Canada. They were married in Kingston, Ontario, March 30, 1891. Two sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Clinton F. Trow. They are: William C., deceased; and Robert D., now with the U. S. Air Force in the Orient.

A. W. Trow, father of C. F. Trow, was three times elected mayor of the city, filling the office from 1910 to 1916, and for three years was president of the Ontario Commercial Club. He had been the second president of the *Malheur Agricultural Association* that sponsored the county fair, was president of the Ontario-Nyssa Irrigation Company and resident agent for the Oregon-Western Colonization Company. For sometime he was associated with W. H. Doolittle in the real estate business. A. W. Trow died from a sudden heart attack at his home February 20, 1917. After her husband's death Mrs. Trow went to San Diego, California, where she resided until her death. Their younger son, A. Palmer Trow, resides in Seattle, Washington.

The State Bank of Malheur county was organized by James N. Jones, Don E. Masterson, C. C. Miller, W. R. Hollingsworth, J. R. Simplot and Walter E. Crosgriff, with a capital stock and surplus of \$62,500. D. E. Masterson was elected president, C. C. Miller vice-president, with G. G. Miller cashier. This newest of the banking institutions opened its doors September 15, 1944, in the J. A. Lackey building on the corner formerly occupied by the First National Bank. J. N. Jones, prominent stockman and banker and ex-state senator, is the youngest son of a prominent early-day stockman whose home ranch was in the vicinity of Juntura. Don E. Masterson is a son of another pioneer stockman of the Juntura section.

The Ontario air field west of town was operated by Casey Jones for some time until he transferred it to Ralph Caine, of Fruitland, who is now in charge of the port.

Ontario's radio broadcasting station KSRV was installed in 1946. Among most prominent enterprises established in recent years are the Ontario Live Stock Commission Company, Bridgeford Farm Produce and Processing plant, Carnation Milk Company plant, and Blue Mountain Mills Plainer and Box Factory. The last named firm purchased the Ontario Associated Industries, Inc., headed by James L. Turnbull, formed to create the new industry.

George K. Aiken, who served six terms as mayor, from 1929 to 1941, was defeated for another term by Elmo E. Smith. Smith was re-elected for a second term and served until December, 1943, when he resigned to join the navy. Kelsey A. Allen, a city councilman who had served several terms in that capacity, was chosen by the council as acting mayor. At the general election in November, 1944, Mayor Allen was retained in office. The following councilmen were also chosen: Dr. W. J. Weese, C. E. Boyer, L. J. Kinney, Harry L. Salisbury, J. D. Bennett, W. L. Hollingsworth.

Elmo Smith, having other political aspirations, declined to run for mayor in 1948. J. Dyer Bennett, who had served two terms as councilman, was nominated and elected mayor without opposition. Earl Blackaby, who has been city treasurer for the past fourteen years, was unanimously elected for another term. In the race for councilmen two new candidates, George Beechler and Gordon Capps led the field. Councilmen Arthur Atherton, David Nicholson, Theodore Moore, and Jed Shane were re-elected. Result of the vote: Beechler, 1,074; Capps, 1,005; Atherton, 1,025; Nicholson, 918; Moore, 903; Shane, 865. City Recorder Frank P. Ryan, who voluntarily retired because of ill health after fourteen years in office, received a hearty vote of thanks in a resolution passed by the city council.

Frank McShane, who succeeded City Recorder Ryan, was the only new appointive city officer. Those renamed were City Marshal Asie Gundersen, City Attorney Anthony Yterri; Dr. R. A. Tacke, city health officer and milk inspector; John B. Gearhart, city engineer; Herb Derrick, superintendent of

streets, water and sewer department; Ralph Crane, airport manager; T. P. Parrish, cemetery sexton; Robert Butson, veteran's housing manager.

Joe E. Dyer, who was president of the Ontario Commercial Club in 1948, and at whose suggestion the name was changed to the Chamber of Commerce, was succeeded as president by Earl Bopp. H. F. Logue, who has so ably filled the office of secretary for a number of years, as has Earl Blackaby that of treasurer, are retained in these positions.

Miss Catherine Conway, who taught thirty years in the Ontario high school as English instructor, retired in the spring of 1948. Friday, May 21, was proclaimed Catherine Conway Day by the high school student council. A program took place at the high school gymnasium to which the public was invited in the afternoon. Immediately following this program Miss Conway was given a tea in the Conklin gymnasium by the high school faculty. She taught a number of terms at Prineville before coming here.

A pioneer mother who has made her home in Ontario many years is Mrs. Lavina Boswell, widow of Robert Boswell, first county stock inspector. She came with her parents, the late Joseph N. Tagues, from Iowa in 1893 to lower Willow creek. Mrs. Vena Boswell came to Ontario about thirty years ago and still makes her home in the city. Her grandmother, Mrs. Ann Buchanan Tague, was a second cousin of James Buchanan, former president of the United States.

Mrs. Anna Messe, who came to Ontario in the early Nineties, is another of the pioneer mothers. Her husband was killed by a cavein while working in the excavation ditch on the installation of the first sewer system in the city in 1904. Her son John Messe is a postal clerk in the postoffice.

CHAPTER 23

VALE, THE COUNTY SEAT

*There's a winding trail a threading,
Through hills and o'er the plains—
Where the pioneers were treading
In the days of wagon trains.
Springs of boiling waters
Gushing from the bald hills nigh—
Bring travelers to our city—
The City of Vale near by.*

—Robert A. Grubbs.

The above lines were written by Robert A. Grubbs, a minister, who at one time had charge of a pastorate in the county seat town.

In the fall of 1863, Jonathan Keeney built a small log house at the Malheur ford on the south side of the river, near the present town of Vale. This cabin served as a wayside inn for the accommodation of emigrants passing over the Oregon Trail from 1863 to 1870. One of Jonathan Keeney's sons, James Keeney, ran the tavern from 1868 until 1870.

In the autumn of 1870, Louis B. Rinehart bought Mr. Keeney's holdings at Vale hot springs and the next year started the construction of the historic Stone House, which was completed in the autumn of 1872. On New Year's Day, 1873, Mr. and Mrs. Rinehart opened it as a hotel—which still stands as a historic landmark in the city of Vale—with a grand ball to celebrate the New Year. This first memorable social event in the county was attended by the far-scattered pioneers, some coming from as far as Malheur City and the Boise, Payette and Weiser valleys. During the Seventies considerable travel passed over the emigrant road and the Stone House became a popular wayside inn. Mrs. Rinehart was the gracious landlady at the Stone House in those pioneer days. She was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William S. Glenn. The Rinehart Buttes, beneath which the hot springs gush, were named for Mr. Rinehart, who has been called affectionately "The Father of Vale."

A stage line was established between Boise and Canyon City in 1878 and a stage station was set up at the Rinehart place.



When the Indian war of 1878 broke out, U. S. troops assembled at the Malheur river ford, near hot springs, to intercept the savages. Many of the scattered settlers assembled at the Stone House for safety.

The Willamette valley and Cascade mountain wagon road and The Dalles Military wagon road intersected at the Malheur ford near the Stone House. The land on which the famous old inn was built was one of the alternate sections that had been allotted to the W. V. & C. M. company. L. B. Rinehart claimed the land by priority right of settlement and was justly entitled to the property on that ground, and could have obtained title to the land in accordance with later government land rulings. The title remained in dispute between Mr. Rinehart and the road company for some time. After years of litigation the case was finally settled by the U. S. government allowing the State of Oregon to select this certain section as indemnity school land and the road company was allowed to select another section to satisfy their claim. On December 22, 1887, Mrs. Amelia Rinehart obtained title to the land from the state. This parcel of land upon which the original town of Vale was platted is the NW Quarter of Section 29, Township 18 South, Range 45 East Willamette Meridian.

In 1883, Charles R. Eldredge, father of Henry S. and George, settled on a homestead adjoining the Rinehart claim. The Eldredges had come west from Minnesota by train to Granger, Wyoming, in 1882, and from there by team and wagon to Baker and returned to Vale the following year. After the town of Vale began to develop and expand, part of the Eldredge homestead was platted and incorporated as the Eldredge addition to the Vale townsite. Other additions later incorporated were the Hope and Holland additions. L. J. Hadley, a pioneer Vale real estate man, incorporated what is known as the Hadley addition. Mr. Hadley married Miss Jennie Betterly, a daughter of George R. Betterly, one of the first to settle on the lower Owyhee.

L. B. Rinehart leased the Stone House hotel in 1883 to Henry C. Murray, who had married Miss Luella Glenn, a younger sister of Mrs. Rinehart. Mr. Murray put in a small stock of merchandise in connection with the operation of the hotel. A postoffice was established February 20, 1883, with H. C. Murray as the first postmaster, and the place long-known as the Stone House was changed to the name of Vale for the Malheur valley.

About six months later Robert N. Linebarger purchased Murray's stock of merchandise and on September 12, 1883, was named to succeed Murray as postmaster. George Johnson took over the hotel. Linebarger served as postmaster little more than a month when he was succeeded by Charles R. Eldredge, who took over the office October 21, 1883. So Vale had three postmasters within less than a year after the postoffice was established.

Famous Old Stone House of Vale.



Vale Court House with Oregon Trail Monument.

Linebarger built a small frame building and moved his store into it. In 1884, Linebarger sold his store to L. A. Sevey and I. H. Holland and took up farming on the Malheur above Vale.

M. G. and I. W. Hope opened the first general store in Vale in 1885, under the name of Hope Bros. Their business from a small beginning gradually increased to become one of the largest mercantile establishments in the county. The firm was later incorporated under the name of the Vale Commercial Company.

C. R. Eldredge held the position of postmaster for about two and a half years when H. C. Murray, who again took over the hotel for the second time, took charge of the office May 5, 1886. With the creation of Malheur County in 1887, H. C. Murray was appointed the first sheriff and resigned as postmaster. On April 26, 1887, Milton G. Hope was appointed postmaster and the postoffice was moved to Hope Bros. store. Murray and Linebarger were democrats; Eldredge and Hope were republicans.

In 1887, William S. Glenn moved all his buildings from Glennville, on Willow creek about sixteen miles north, to Vale; one of which was a two-story lodge building and dance hall. An I.O.O.F. lodge had been instituted at Glennville in 1885, and occupied the upper story and the lower floor was used as a dance hall. This building, after being moved to Vale, was for years occupied by the Odd Fellows lodge while the lower story was

used by Hope Bros., and C. E. Boswell as a retail store. Later it became the home of two newspapers, first the *Oreana* and later the *Malheur Enterprise*. This building is still standing in the northeast part of the business section and is second to the famous Stone House as the oldest building in the town. The oldest dwelling still standing was built by E. H. Test in 1887 when he came from Ontario to assume duties as the first county clerk. Upon his return to Ontario, Mr. Test sold the property to Mrs. C. B. Trapp who made her home there for many years.

Glenn Bros. built and operated the first livery stable in Vale. It stood across the street southeast of the Stone House hotel. Henry Eldredge bought the Glenn livery barn in 1891 and opened a blacksmith shop nearby. Among other pioneer liverymen of Vale were Chauncy Eaton, Nick Olk, C. E. Boswell and James Mahon. William Harris was the first village blacksmith; his widow, Mrs. Ida Harris, still resides in the vicinity. G. W. Lyells was the second blacksmith to open a shop in Vale.

Among the prominent pioneers and first businessmen of Vale was Columbus Wells, familiarly called "Pappy Wells," by his numerous friends. D. C. Wells opened the first saloon in Vale. He was a son-in-law of William S. Glenn, as was also Isaac H. Holland, another pioneer businessman, who married Etta, youngest of the four Glenn girls. They were the parents of a daughter, Gladys. D. C. and Emma Glenn Wells were the parents of two sons and a daughter, Will, Ivan and Lulu Wells. Will married Miss May V. Goodrich, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Goodrich, who came with her parents from California in 1892. Lulu Wells married Eugene Pollock, who worked for her father. She is now the wife of Arthur Kessler, a present-day prominent businessman of Vale.

The second hotel erected in Vale was a two-story frame building known as the Hess Hotel, built in 1887. It was owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. S. V. Hess. L. W. Goodrich bought the Hess Hotel about 1895. This hotel, which stood on the present site of the Vale Commercial Company store, was replaced by a stone building. Lafayette W. Goodrich was born in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1844. In 1849, at the age of five, he crossed the plains with his parents from Missouri to California. While a resident there he married Miss Lucy J. Markham. She was a "covered wagon baby," born in Utah while her parents were enroute by ox team from New York to California.

Mrs. William Shinn, wife of Judge Shinn, succeeded Mrs. Luella Murray as landlady at the Stone House hotel. Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Taggart succeeded Mrs. Shinn as proprietors. Like most of the first residents of Vale, both are deceased. They were the parents of D. M. Taggart, the well-known pioneer businessman of Vale and Ontario, now a prominent farmer of the Cairo vicinity; and Mrs. B. W. Mulkey, recently deceased. N. E. Taggart and his brother, J. M. Taggart with their families came from Indiana in

1892. J. M. Taggart moved with his wife and son, Orville, to Wilder, Idaho, in 1908, where he lived until his death in 1930, at the age of seventy-two.

Hiram Dorris and George Newman were among the first pioneers to settle with their families in Vale. Hiram Dorris was the first deputy sheriff of Malheur county and "Lapse" Yantis was the second. Both served under Sheriff H. C. Murray.

L. B. Teter and E. R. Murray opened one of the first meat markets. Teter's wife was the former Hattie Gillerman. Murray never married. L. B. Teter went to Ontario and opened a saloon about 1910. He died in Ontario in 1921. His widow married D. C. Booth. She died at Holy Rosary hospital November 8, 1940. Booth is also deceased. The Teters were the parents of one daughter, Mrs. Mae Anderson.

Among other early-day businessmen of Vale were I. F. S. Divin, hardware merchant; J. H. Kime & Sons, druggists; J. C. Kelley, harness and saddlery shop. Kelley later opened a branch shop in Ontario with William Olk in charge. F. M. Vines and Harry Hunter came from Ontario in 1888 and opened a saloon. Hunter was a taxidermist. C. E. Boswell, who had been deputy under and succeeded T. W. Halliday, as sheriff, engaged in the mercantile business after his defeat for re-election by J. D. Locey. His deputy, John Boswell, remained in Vale and engaged in the drug business until his death. Mrs. Kate Donahey ran the first laundry in Vale. Her son, Huey, was among the pioneer druggists. James Weaver was another of the early day druggists.

Another prominent early-day businessman was James N. Fell, who came to the county seat from Jordan valley in 1900 when he was elected the second sheriff of the county. After serving two terms as sheriff, Mr. Fell erected a large two-story stone building and opened a saloon. Later he acquired land around the hot springs where the natatorium is located and drilled a well there for the purpose of obtaining hot artesian water. After drilling only thirty-five feet the water spouted fifteen feet from the well. The water continued to flow for some months until chemicals in the water corrugated the pipe and stopped the flow. Several attempts to abridge this difficulty failed and the effort was abandoned. Noted chemists have said the water of the hot springs contain valuable medical properties equal, if not superior to, any mineral waters on the Pacific Coast.

Milt Hope was postmaster from April, 1887, until June 14, 1893, when he was succeeded by Edward R. Murray, brother of former Postmaster H. C. Murray. On February 12, 1898, James A. Newton was named as the postmaster. He conducted the postoffice in his confectionery store in a frame building in the block north of the court house. Mrs. Pheobe Newton was assistant postmaster for her husband. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac McCumsey, among the first pioneers to settle in the immediate vicinity above Vale on the Malheur.

Professor A. B. McPherson, who taught the first term of school in Vale, preached the first sermon in the first school house in the city, that he had helped to erect. He had migrated with his family from California to Caldwell, Idaho, in the spring of 1887, and the same year located in Vale. Some years later Professor McPherson was elected county school superintendent. Like another early day school superintendent, B. L. Milligan, Mr. McPherson sometimes occupied the pulpit at religious services.

The pioneer lawyers of the county seat town were Percy Napton, Will R. King, H. E. Courtney, William Shinn, R. G. Wheeler and W. E. Lees. Those who hung out their shingles later were O. F. Buse, J. W. McCulloch, Gus E. and Julian A. Hurley, brothers, George E. Davis, George W. Hayes, Arthur Rinehart, son of L. B. Rinehart, Bruce R. Kester, C. M. Crandall and his son, Charles Crandall, Robert M. Duncan and Robert D. Lytle. Of these pioneer attorneys, Judge R. D. Lytle is the only one still residing in Vale. Nearly all the others have received their last summons and gone to their reward. Judge Lytle, still in the legal profession, has the distinction of having practiced law continuously in the county longer than any other attorney. W. H. Brooke and P. J. Gallagher, the two Ontario pioneer attorneys, were practicing law in the county before the arrival of Lytle, but Brooke moved to Eugene and Gallagher moved to Portland.

Vale was incorporated as a city in 1889. William S. Glenn was elected the first mayor, with H. C. Murray, L. A. Sevey, H. P. Napton and Frank M. Vines, councilmen. H. P. Napton was a brother of Percy Napton. Frank B. Glenn, son of Mayor Glenn, was the first city recorder. C. E. Boswell was elected second mayor in 1901, with the following councilmen: B. C. Richardson, I. W. Hope, Walter M. Glenn and J. A. Newton. John Boswell was named city recorder and Theodore F. Olk, treasurer. B. C. Richardson was the first justice of the peace. Some years later he was elected county judge. He became known as "the marrying judge."

About 1894, Frank High took charge of the Glenn livery barn. Mr. High's sister was the first wife of M. G. Hope. Not long after coming to Oregon, Mr. High married Miss Mary Griffin, a sister of Mrs. John U. Hoffman, of Juntura. Mrs. High, her brothers, Oscar, Lockett and Henry Griffin are all deceased.

Rev. Perry Phelps, who for a time resided on the lower Owyhee, came to Vale in 1897, as the pastor of the Methodist church. In 1900, he resigned as pastor and went into the real estate business. He belonged to a family of evangelists including his mother, Rev. Naoma Phelps, and his two younger brothers, Revs. Frank and Guy. They were natives of Kansas and came to Boise in 1881.

Ferd Tutz is another pioneer real estate man. When a boy he came with his parents, a brother Henry, and sister Lillie, to Ontario from Minnesota. After his mother's death, April 16, 1896, his father H. L. Tutz,

settled on a homestead on the Malheur a few miles west of Vale. In 1898, he married Miss Annie Long, daughter of N. C. Long, an early settler in the Vale community. Ferd Zutz married Miss Malinda Gillerman.

In 1895, the Vale school district was bonded for \$2,000 for the erection of a fine two-story stone school house in the southwest part of the city.

One of Vale's most distinguished pioneer businessmen and officials, very capable and possessed of an unassuming personality which has won him many friends, is Ben W. Mulkey, now retired at the age of seventy-six. Mr. Mulkey was born in Missouri, March 22, 1874. His father, Aaron Hayes Mulkey, was a native of Kentucky. His mother, whose maiden name was Josephine Chenoweth, was born in Ohio. They were married at Oskaloosa, Iowa, February 23, 1872. While yet in his 'teens, Mulkey went to Colorado where he farmed and worked on a railroad section. At the age of twenty he came to Western Oregon where he chopped railroad wood, taught school, attended the Friends Polytechnic Institute in Salem and the Central State Normal at Drain.

After coming to Malheur county in 1899, Mr. Mulkey taught the Vale school; worked part of one summer on L. W. Goodrich's farm and clerked in Hope Bros. store. In 1900, he was appointed deputy county clerk and served two terms in that capacity under W. G. Thomson, and succeeded Mr. Thomson when the latter retired in 1904. He was elected county clerk for two terms. Afterward he accepted a position in the old U. S. National Bank, operated the Drexel hotel and then organized the Oregon Idaho Lumber Company and built yards in Vale, Ontario and Nyssa. He sold his lumber business to Robert van Gilse, who later sold to the L. Adam Empire Lumber Company. About 1920, Mr. Mulkey bought the Malheur Title & Abstract Company which he conducted until 1940 when he retired from business. In official capacities, besides that of county clerk, he was a member of the Vale school board, city councilman, mayor and city treasurer.

At Vale on February 23, 1901, B. W. Mulkey married Miss Augusta Taggart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Newton E. Taggart. She was a native of Indiana. They are the parents of three children, Wendell, who now resides in Coulee City, Washington; Philip, now of Boise, and Mrs. Marjorie Beem, who with her husband Donald Beem, make their home in Ontario. Wendell Mulkey's wife is the former Marjorie Bessey; Philip Mulkey married Juanita Miller.

Mrs. B. W. Mulkey, who had been an invalid for some time, passed away at their home in Ontario, where Mr. Mulkey had taken her so she would be nearer her physician. Besides her husband and children she is survived by two brothers, Delbert M. Taggart of Ontario and Thomas Taggart of Chicago. For nearly fifty years she was a member of the Vale Rebekah lodge. Mr. Mulkey remarked to me:

"I consider that I have made a success in life, not financially, but because my wife and I have raised three good citizens."

Not long after R. M. Duncan came from Ontario to Vale in 1913 to open a law office, he organized the Malheur Title & Abstract Company. Thomas Jones acquired the business which he later sold to B. W. Mulkey about 1920. Mr. Mulkey conducted the business for the next twenty years when he sold to John L. Caldwell, Jr. The firm is now conducted as the Malheur Title & Abstract Company, Inc., with Mr. Caldwell as president. In January, 1947, Mr. Caldwell was appointed county commissioner to fill the vacancy when Commissioner John Medlin resigned after moving from his Harper ranch to Boise, Idaho. Mr. Caldwell is also chairman of the republican county central committee.

The *Malheur Gazette*, launched in 1888, to espouse the cause of Vale in county seat election contest, was the first newspaper established in Vale and the second in the county. It was published in a small frame building, which was also the editor's living quarters. It stood across the street and some distance southeast of the historic Stone House.

Vale, in pioneer days, like other small towns, was without fire protection and many of the first frame buildings were consumed by flames. Included among them was the Headquarters Saloon, the first in town, conducted by D. C. Wells, that stood on the present site of the Vale Hotel. Among other structures to be burned down were the first store building of Hope Bros.; the Hess Hotel; the calaboose in which H. C. Murray was burned to death, and a livery stable in which more than a dozen horses were burned. Hugh Donahey, who was sleeping in the barn where he was employed, narrowly escaped with his life.

Charles E. Hammond opened the first barber shop in Vale in 1897. In 1913, he went to Parma and later to Caldwell. He died at the latter place March 26, 1949.

George E. Davis, republican, was for some years a practicing attorney in Grant county. In 1904, he defeated Circuit Judge M. D. Clifford, democrat, who was running for re-election. After the election the Davis family moved from Canyon City to Vale. He was defeated for re-election by Dalton Biggs in 1910, whereupon he established a law practice in Vale. He resided there until his death. He was survived by his wife and their only son.

Charles H. Oxman and family came to Malheur county in 1909 and located on a stock ranch near Jamieson, where they engaged in the sheep business. The family maintained a summer home in Vale. Mr. Oxman was born in Grayville, Illinois, March 11, 1868. After graduating from college he married Miss Hannah Martin, of Graysville, in 1893. Their son, Donald, married Miss Lela, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jones.

Mr. Oxman manifested great interest in public affairs and irrigation development. He was a director in the Vale irrigation project from the

time of its inception and was a member of the Vale-Owyhee Land Settlement committee. He was elected county commissioner in 1922 on the republican ticket, and later served two terms as representative in the legislature, being first elected in 1928 and again in 1930. Mr. Oxman died at his ranch near Jamieson on the night of September 16, 1933, at the age of sixty-five years.*

C. C. Mueller, another prominent citizen of Vale, arrived in Vale in 1908. A few years later he was elected county treasurer on the republican ticket. His younger days were spent in Emmettsburg, Iowa, where he married Miss Ophelia Bostwick in 1897. Ten years later they migrated to California. Mrs. Mueller died at Holy Rosary hospital August 6, 1938, at the age of 69. She is buried in the Ontario cemetery. The Muellers were parents of two daughters and a son, Mrs. Helen Glenn, Mrs. Vina Johnson and F. C. Mueller. C. C. Mueller died at his home in Vale October 5, 1947.

When the Vale land office was established in 1910, Bruce R. Kester was appointed the first registrar. Mr. Kester was a native of Pennsylvania. After preparatory work at an academy in his native state he went to Washington, D. C., where he was employed in various governmental departments while studying law at George Washington University. Upon graduation from law school in 1909 he was sent West in 1910 as an examiner for the land office. When the Vale land office was opened he was appointed land office of registrar and filled that position until 1916.

Mr. Kester was married to Miss Mabel Judd in 1911, who was a member of the Vale high school faculty. To this union three children were born: Mildred, Randall and Barbara. After leaving the land office Mr. Kester formed a law partnership with the late Judge George E. Davis, who had retired as circuit judge. The partnership continued until Mr. Kester moved to Ontario in 1923 where he became associated with P. J. Gallagher in the law firm of Gallagher & Kester. Mr. Kester continued the practice in Ontario after Mr. Gallagher moved to Portland in 1925. That same year Kester was appointed city attorney of Ontario, which position he held until 1930. Mr. Kester was elected district attorney on the republican ticket in 1928. Prior to that he had been attorney for the Owyhee irrigation district, the Payette-Oregon slope district and a number of smaller districts. While in the office of district attorney he died at Holy Rosary hospital February 18, 1932, and was laid to rest in the Ontario cemetery. Mrs. Kester and children moved to Portland following her husband's death.

Thomas Jones, who moved to Vale from lower Willow creek in 1887, to assume the duties of the first deputy county clerk under E. H. Test, was

* His brother, Frank C. Oxman, a pioneer cattle and sheepman of Baker county, was the star witness for the state of California against Thomas J. Mooney, charged with planting the bomb that killed a number of spectators witnessing the 1916 San Francisco Preparedness Day parade. A daughter of W. E. Brown, a former businessman of Ontario, was among the number injured in the explosion of the bomb. Frank C. Oxman died in Baker on July 22, 1931, at the age of seventy. His son, Frank C., Jr., was a resident of Ontario for some time.

appointed the second registrar of the Vale office by President Woodrow Wilson in 1916, succeeding Bruce R. Kester. Mr. Jones had previously served as registrar of the Burns land office, as an appointee of President Grover Cleveland.

M. N. Fegtley was appointed receiver of the Vale land office at the same time Thomas Jones was appointed registrar. Mr. Fegtley, a pioneer of both Harney and Malheur counties, had been editor of the *Jordan Valley Express* for eight years and for a time had edited the *Silver City Nugget*. He had served as chairman of the Malheur county democratic central committee. Jones and Fegtley served two terms, or eight years, as registrar and receiver of the land office.

Mr. Fegtley was an invalid the last ten years of his life, most of which time he was confined to his bed. Despondent because of his long years of ill health, Mr. Fegtley committed suicide January 8, 1936, by slashing his wrist with a razor at the home of his son, Carl Fegtley—at that time postmaster. His wife had preceded him in death by a number of years. George W. McKnight succeeded Jones as registrar and served until the office was discontinued June 30, 1927, after seventeen years of service. When the office was closed records and plats of the public domain in Malheur, Harney and Grant counties were transferred to the land office at The Dalles for future administration.

The Vale Chamber of Commerce was organized in February, 1910, with a membership of about seventy. Major H. L. French was elected the first president; George W. Hayes and George W. McKnight were named vice-presidents. These three officials with H. R. Dunlap and J. W. Davidson comprised the board of directors. R. C. Carter was the first secretary and Elwood L. Clark the first treasurer. Major French resigned prior to returning to his former home in New York and C. H. Oxman was selected to succeed him as president of the club. The home of the club was first located in the William S. Glenn building. The lower part of the building at that time was occupied by the *Malheur Enterprise*, with B. W. Stone, manager, and John J. McGrath, editor.

The year 1911 marked the greatest progress and building development in Vale up to that time, totaling over \$250,000. Building of the passenger depot and development of the railroad yards totaled over \$40,000. Among the municipal improvements of that year was the beautifying of Riverside Park in the south part of the city. Jonas Wicklund, a brother-in-law and cousin of John E. Johnson, had charge of making the park improvements. Over fifty shade trees were set out to add to the trees that had grown there before the founding of the city; grass was sown for the lawn. Outdoor meetings of the annual *Malheur County Pioneer Association* are held in this park as are patriotic programs on the Fourth of July.

A new gravity water and sewer system for the city were installed in

the summer of 1911 at a cost of \$110,000. Three new church buildings were erected and four new business blocks were added to the business district. Among the new substantial residences built were the two-story dwelling of Frank B. Glenn; homes by L. J. Hadley, Z. G. Wilson, T. T. Nelson and George Eldredge, all prominent pioneers of the city. Zac Wilson was an early-day county assessor and T. T. Nelson a pioneer furniture dealer. Another important improvement of 1911 was the erection of the handsome two-story stone high school building at a cost of \$27,000.

Ira Smith, who came with his family to Vale about 1902 purchased an interest in Hope Bros. general store. The name was changed to the Vale Trading Company and later the firm was incorporated under the name of Vale Commercial Company. When Hope Bros. retired from business the firm was taken over by Leo H. Schmidt and Miss Mary Glenn about 1913, who conducted the business for the next thirty years, until Mr. Schmidt's death on February 13, 1943, at the age of 73 years. Miss Mary Glenn, one of the most successful business women in the county, still carries on as the head of the Vale Commercial Company. She is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Glenn and a sister of ex-sheriff Charles W. Glenn.

Leo H. Smith was a native of Rockville, Connecticut. The date of his birth was January 18, 1870. Upon coming to Vale he manifested great interest in the civic affairs of the county. He was a director of the first board of the Vale irrigation district and for many years was a member of the board of the Vale-Owyhee Settlement Association. Mr. Schmidt was a bachelor. At the time of his death he had but one known living relative.

After his defeat for re-election for sheriff, T. W. Halliday remained in Vale and became vice-president of the First Bank of Vale, third bank in the county, which was organized August 1, 1901, with a capital stock of \$50,000. The incorporators were J. L. Cole, M. G. Hope, Frank O'Neill and Elmer A. Clark. The first directors were J. L. Cole, president; T. W. Halliday, Elmer A. Clark, William Quinn, Thomas Turnbull, R. A. Lockett and J. C. Kelley. Elmer A. Clark was the first cashier. Later his brother, Elwood L. Clark, was employed as assistant cashier. The bank owned and occupied a handsome stone building that was built at a cost of \$5,000.

In 1901, Hope Bros. and Keeney & Moore with some Portland capitalists prospected for oil in the hills northwest of Vale. They organized a company which located about 12,000 acres of land and drilled a number of test wells. Another company was organized to drill for oil northeast of town. Drillings produced only dry wells after which the two projects were abandoned.

The second flour mill in the county, a two-story structure, was built near the Malheur river southwest of the city limits in 1904 by the Vale Milling Company. The principal stockholders were M. G. and I. W. Hope, J. N. Fell, C. W. Mallett and C. H. Brown. The mill discontinued operations some years later.

In 1906, the Malheur valley branch of the Union Pacific railroad was built from Malheur Junction, near the Ontario stock yards, to Vale. A number of Vale and Ontario business men formed a company to build the railroad. John E. Johnson, who was former county surveyor, was the engineer put in charge of locating, surveying and building the road. When a depot was built at Vale, upon the completion of the road, Ralph P. Hoyt became the first station agent in the city. In 1911, a new passenger depot was built. Upon its completion Agent Hoyt moved into the new depot with his office and the old depot became the freight house. Mr. Hoyt married Miss Edith Neely, member of a prominent Vale family. They went to Seattle a number of years ago where Mr. Hoyt became the manager of the Green River Company for the northwest. He died in that city on July 29, 1933, and his remains were transferred to his former home in Ogden, Utah, for burial.

In 1906, a number of Alaskans, who had migrated to the arctic region during the Northern gold rush, located in Vale and began the development of the Willow river irrigation project and other enterprises. They had been induced to come to this locality by Charles Thebo, who with his sister, Miss Maggie Thebo, had gone from here to the frozen north during the Alaskan gold rush. Among these former Alaskans who arrived here in 1906 and 1907 were Major H. L. French, D. M. Brogan, B. M. Stone, J. J. McGrath and John Rigby. The most prominent among them were Major French and D. M. Brogan. The town of Brogan was named for the latter. Major French had been a circus owner and manager. He was related by marriage to the Studebaker family of wagon making and automobile manufacturing fame.

George W. and Frank McKnight, brothers, who were natives of Linn county, came from the Willamette valley about 1906 to engage in the sheep business. Both became prominent citizens. Their parents were early-day pioneers who came overland by covered wagon and crossed the Malheur river at the hot springs ford. In 1910, George W. McKnight was elected county judge on the republican ticket. He was defeated for re-election in 1916 by E. H. Test, democrat. Judge McKnight operated a large turkey ranch near Vale for some time before returning to his former home at Albany, about 1942. He died in Albany on January 7, 1945. His widow survived him. Frank McKnight never married.

John Boswell was appointed postmaster July 12, 1907, to succeed James A. Newton, who had held the position for nine years. Boswell conducted the office in his drug store and served one term of four years. On March 8, 1912, Virgil B. Staples was appointed as Boswell's successor. Newton, Boswell and Staples were republicans.

With a change in the national political situation John P. Houston, democrat, was appointed postmaster June 2, 1916, and re-appointed June 5, 1920. Mr. Houston, a former county clerk, was cashier of the Vale bank at the time of his appointment. About two months after his second appoint-

ment as postmaster, Houston resigned to again assume the position of bank cashier. J. P. Houston, a native of Tennessee, had been deputy county clerk under B. W. Mulkey for two terms and after Mr. Mulkey's retirement succeeded him as county clerk, serving two terms. Mr. Houston was living in Caldwell, Idaho, at the time of his death in 1937, where he had been employed for some time as a bank cashier.

Following J. P. Houston's resignation as postmaster at Vale, Thomas C. McElroy, democrat, was appointed acting postmaster to fill out the unexpired term. Another political change having taken place at the national capitol, Oscar Daily, republican, was appointed postmaster February 13, 1923, and held the office three terms, being re-appointed January 28, 1927, and again on February 4, 1931.

As the result of another political change at Washington, D.C., Carl W. Fegtley was appointed acting postmaster October 15, 1935, and appointed to the position January 1, 1936. Fegtley was re-appointed for another term June 25, 1940. On complaint of a postoffice inspector he was relieved from office and Arthur H. Bone, at the time editor of the *Malheur Enterprise*, was appointed acting postmaster on April 30, 1941.

The present popular and efficient Postmaster George A. Hart, was appointed February 18, 1942. Mr. Hart, now 47 years of age, came to Vale when he was two years old and has resided here ever since. He attended the Vale schools from the primary to the eighth grade, and graduated from the Vale high school. His father, Frank Hart, freighted with team and wagon to the interior points, when Vale was the end of the railroad, until his death. Postmaster Hart worked for a time as railroad section hand. He rose from grocery delivery boy to clerk and finally manager until he assumed his present position of postmaster.

C. M. Robinette came to Vale as manager of a branch store for the M. Alexander Clothing Company, of Boise. He had worked for the Alexander Company in Boise before coming to Vale. After the Alexander Company closed the Vale store, Mr. Robinette organized and managed the Malheur Clothing Company, and for many years was the leading clothing merchant in this city. C. M. (Ike) Robinette served a number of terms as mayor. He took much interest in public enterprise and was always a leader in sponsoring the annual Fourth of July celebrations and in the development of Riverside Park. Mr. Robinette died at his store from a self-inflicted wound about 7 a.m., September 26, 1931. His well-attended funeral was held in the city park. The body was taken to his former home at Meridian, Idaho, for burial. His widow was the former Vera Beasley.

The *Malheur County Pioneer Association* was organized at a meeting of pioneer citizens assembled in Vale September 4, 1914. About three hundred members of pioneer families were present for the occasion. The first officers elected at this meeting were: Robert A. Lockett, president; John S.

Edwards, vice-president; William G. Thomson, secretary-treasurer. Thomas Jones, first historian of the association, read a paper he composed entitled, *Pages of Malheur County History*, which gives many important historic facts of early-day events. The story was published in the *Malheur Enterprise* of September 12, 1914, and re-published in the *Ontario Argus* of January 2, and 9, 1936. By consent of Judge Jones the story is re-published in this volume.

Another interesting paper, entitled *Pioneer School Days*, was also prepared and read by W. C. Thomson, first school superintendent of the county. Mrs. S. D. Stroup and Mrs. J. A. Draper prepared another paper that was read by the latter at this first pioneer meeting and later published in the *Ontario Optimist* in 1914. Annual meetings of the Pioneer Association have been held at the county seat yearly since organization with the exceptions of two years, first in 1918, during World War I, and in 1947, because of a threatened epidemic of infantile paralysis.

Mrs. Nellie Carrol, another pioneer teacher, was chosen to succeed her father, W. C. Thomson, as secretary of the pioneer society. Other officers of the society have been elected yearly. Among others besides the first president R. A. Lockett, have been J. R. Blackaby, J. S. Edwards, I. W. Hope, G. W. McKnight, J. H. Forbes, Walter M. Glenn, P. J. Gallagher, Ross McPherson, J. B. Woodcock, Clarence Howard, E. A. Boyd is now president. Ross McPherson's sister, Mrs. Eucebia Beam, has been historian for the pioneer society for the past few years. They are the children of A. B. McPherson, the first Vale school teacher.

Professor McPherson later settled on a homestead about half way between Vale and Ontario about 1908. After his election as county school superintendent he moved to Ontario. Besides his only son, the McPhersons were the parents of six daughters: Velera, widow of William Plughoff; Veronica, Vernena, Euberta and Gladys. Veronica married Frank McKee, a nephew of William Plughoff, when she was a typesetter for Plughoff on the *Argus*. Eucebia's husband was Elward J. Beam, for over fifty years a prominent rancher and stockman of the Ironside vicinity, died at Holy Rosary hospital in Ontario and is buried in the Ironside cemetery. His widow resides at Ironside. William Beam, a younger brother of Edward, married Vernena McPherson, a younger sister of Mrs. Edward Beam. They have resided in Nyssa for many years. Edward and William Beam are the sons of W. W. Beam, deceased, one of the first settlers near Ironside. Euberta McPherson is the wife of Pete Olsen and resides in Montana. The youngest sister, Gladys, is the wife of W. V. Brookover, who for many years was baggage master at the Oregon Short Line depot in Ontario. Later he operated flower stores in Ontario and Weiser.

Charles Bullard and his bride came to Vale in a wagon train from Nebraska, arriving in August, 1896. Mr. Bullard and Miss Emma Bohy

had been married in Nebraska, January 11 of that year. After farming on the Malheur above Vale for some time they located in the Arcadia vicinity where Mr. Bullock, well past 80 years, still resides. Mrs. Bullock died at Holy Rosary hospital July 9, 1945, at the age of 72 and is buried in the Ontario cemetery. They are the parents of a son and three daughters: Otis, of Ontario; Mrs. Clyde Long, of Nyssa; Mrs. John Carr, of Weiser and Miss Ethel Bullard, of Herminston.

The First National Bank of Vale succeeded the Bank of Vale. For some time James N. Jones and Don E. Masterson, native sons of Juntura vicinity, were president and vice president, respectively; with Verl W. Dowers cashier. The United States Bank, of Portland, acquired the Vale National Bank in May, 1947, in a transaction with the Continental National Bank and Trust Company, of Salt Lake City, at that time owners of the Vale financial institution. The deal was reported to have involved some \$3,000,000. D. E. Masterson was made manager and V. W. Dowers assistant manager. Ralph Van Houton is the cashier.

In the city election of 1946, E. E. Clark, Jr., was chosen mayor, with W. H. Daniel, Verl W. Dowers, C. W. Fields, Glenn High, Kenneth J. Zimmerman, councilmen; Frank L. Calise, recorder; Ralph Van Houton, treasurer; John Barkley, water superintendent.

Ralph H. Van Houton is president of the Vale Chamber of Commerce and Frank Calise, secretary. Van Houton and Calise are also president and secretary of the Associated Chamber of Commerce. Ray Larson, of Nyssa, was the vice president in 1948.

The present officers of the Vale Chamber of Commerce are Nephi Grigg president, C. E. Lewin vice president and Francis Tiffany treasurer.

The present city officials chosen at the November, 1948 election are: Ed Dilley, mayor, with three new councilmen, Joe Beach, Jack Bement and Don Wood. The holdover councilmen are: Verl Dowers and Glenn High. Mrs. Jean Fletcher was named city recorder and Robert Zimmerman treasurer. Dave Smith recently resigned as city marshal, and was succeeded by his deputy, Robert Ingram.

David Graham, former county judge, has for some years been the justice of the peace. Before entering politics Judge Graham was engaged in banking in Juntura, Ontario and Vale.

The Federal census of 1940 gave Vale a population of 1,083. By December 10, 1947, the population had increased twenty-six and one-half per cent. By an official count under the direction of Adam F. Lefor, from the office of Secretary of State, completed on the above date, the population numbered 1,370. The present population is estimated to be over 1,500.

CHAPTER 24

NYSSA, THE GATE CITY

*We have builded a shrine to friendship,
Goodfellowship and cheer,
That all who cross our threshold
May find contentment here.*

—Author Unknown.

Nyssa, on the Oregon Short Line, is located near the Snake river. It is about eight miles from Parma, Idaho, and ten miles south of Ontario. Like Nampa, the name Nyssa is an Indian word, indicating "sagebrush," according to Lewis McArthur, author of *Oregon Geographical Names*. There is a legend that the name was given the town by an Oregon Short Line section hand, who named it for a town in his native Greece. Nyssa was very appropriately re-christened "The Gate City," by some of its enterprising businessmen.

When the Oregon Short Line railroad built through the Snake river valley in 1883-84, a section house and water tank were built at Nyssa. Lennox B. Boyle, who supplied construction crews as the railroad built westward, located on a homestead when the road reached this point. Part of this homestead became the original town of Nyssa. Mr. Boyle, a bachelor, first lived in a dugout. He soon built a small building and opened the first store in what has become the city of Nyssa. For several years following, the town comprised the Boyle store, the railroad section house and water tank and the headquarter buildings of the Oregon Horse & Land Company. A postoffice was established in L. B. Boyle's store on June 15, 1885, and he was named the first postmaster of Nyssa.

John F. Lackey, the first superintendent of the Oregon Horse & Land Company—generally known as the NG Co.—was one of the first two Malheur county commissioners. His family occupied the two-story white frame house of the NG company and they became the first citizens of Nyssa. This large dwelling stood in the vicinity of the present Amalgamated Sugar Company factory. John D. Lackey, a son of John F. Lackey, is now the first citizen of Nyssa, having resided here before the town was located. For many years he has been a leading businessman of the city.

L. B. Boyle died in 1894 and Holiver Megorden, who had purchased some of the Boyle homestead, opened the second store in Nyssa. About a year later, Sanford N. and Charles R. Emison opened the first general store under the firm name of Emison Bros. They installed the Nyssa ferry for the accommodation of nearby settlers residing on the Idaho side of Snake river, who desired to trade in Nyssa. J. L. Lee & Company put in another general mercantile establishment. C. R. Emison became interested with his brother-in-law, L. Adam, in the Empire Lumber Company, and a branch lumber yard was located at Nyssa with Emison as manager. S. N. Emison was appointed postmaster and the postoffice was moved to the Emison Bros. store. With the extension of the Owyhee ditch a rich farming community was soon developed in the vicinity of Nyssa and the town began to develop and grow. In 1899, Alonzo Peer erected the first hotel and livery stable in Nyssa.

Nyssa's first hotel proprietor and liveryman was a native of New Jersey, the date of his birth being June 28, 1842. He cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. Mr. Peer started west in 1868, first going to Michigan and later to Utah. He was married to Mrs. Sarah J. Green in Utah on May 12, 1883. She was the mother of three children by a former marriage. One of her two sons, Lyman A. Green and her daughter, Mrs. M. A. Leuck, were dwellers of the Nyssa vicinity for a number of years.

The first murder tragedy to arouse this community was the killing of Mrs. H. Megorden by her husband. She had fled from their home when he threatened her life. He pursued her and overtook and killed her in the road while she was on her way to the home of her father, W. J. Minton. Mr. Minton was a prominent farmer of the community. Holiver Megorden, a native of Germany, was convicted of first degree murder in the circuit court at Vale and sentenced to receive the death penalty. He was taken to the penitentiary at Salem where he was executed. This was the first murder trial in Malheur county in which the death penalty was meted out to the killer.

Mrs. Megorden was a native of Missouri and, as a girl, came west to Colorado with her parents where she met and married Megorden. They were the parents of two sons. She was survived by her father, four brothers and four sisters, all residing in the west. The brothers, Frank, Robert, Joe and Newton, were prominent farmers who developed ranches in the Nyssa vicinity. The three oldest brothers, Frank, Bob and Joe worked on the extension of the Owyhee ditch.

Among other early-day businessmen were J. H. Boydell, C. C. Hunt, W. B. Hoxie, H. R. Dunlap, Thomas F. Coward, John Reece, Robert Thompson, Hub Walters, George Phillips, Pete and Dick Tensen. Mr. Boydell died many years ago. T. F. Coward, a native of England, came to America at the age of 14, first settling in Canada. For forty-two years he resided in

Oregon. He operated the Ford garage in Ontario and for years conducted a lumber yard in Nyssa. He died in Nyssa October 2, 1947 at the age of 72.

Among early-day farmers of the Nyssa vicinity were G. G. Brown, John Ray, Ira Rutledge, J. M. Duncan, D. R. Ehrgood, Neil Moorehead, J. H. Forbes, Ed Hamilton, C. C. Hunt, W. L. Gibson, C. W. Jones, John and Hub Ward, Pete and Dick Tensen.

George G. Brown was born in Platt county, Missouri, January 22, 1850. In Newton county, Missouri, on March 15, 1874, he was married to Miss Margaret D. Carey. In 1888, they crossed the plains by team and wagon with their four children and Mr. Brown's mother. They first settled in Long valley, Idaho, where Mr. Brown engaged in stock raising. In 1891, they located in this vicinity and he filed on a homestead between Nyssa and Arcadia, which he converted in a fine alfalfa farm, with a good orchard. Three of the daughters married prominent farmers of the locality. Ira Rutledge, John Ray and Newton Minton.

One of the most prosperous farmers of the locality for the past half century is Pieier Tensen who came with his wife and two children from their native Holland to this vicinity in 1900. Mr. Tensen was born in Schellinkhout, December 24, 1872, and his wife was born in Hoorn, November 28, 1873. They were married in Mr. Tensen's native town February 9, 1894. After becoming a very successful farmer Mr. Tensen encouraged and financed other Hollanders to migrate to this locality and to him much credit is due for the prosperous Holland colony. For ten years he was president of the County A.A.A. and also a member of the board of the Federal Land Bank. Mr. and Mrs. Tensen observed their golden wedding February 9, 1944, at their Nyssa home with a party that was attended by their children and many friends. Two of the children, Cornelius and Klass, were born in Holland. The other two, Mrs. Gertrude Broad and Dick Tensen, are natives of the county. The former is the wife of John Broad of Nyssa. The youngest son, Dick, is a veteran of the second World War and served in the army overseas.

Nyssa's first newspaper was *The News*, launched by Emison Bros. in 1905, with O. O. Davis as editor. About a year later the paper was acquired by Francis Bros. who changed the name to *The Sun*. Five years later, 1910, the name of the paper was changed to *The Gate City Journal* and has continued under different management and editors until the present time. Klass V. Powell is the present editor and publisher.

After Emison Bros. retired from business in Nyssa, Miss Elizabeth Thompson succeeded S. N. Emison as postmaster and served in that capacity for a number of years. Miss Thompson, a democrat, was succeeded by a republican during the Hoover administration. Dean Smith was appointed in 1932 and filled the office for four years when he was succeeded by Sylvester H. Goshert in 1936. Mr. Goshert served two four-year terms until

he was replaced by the present obliging postmaster, Lloyd W. Lewis, who took charge of the office August 4, 1944.

Joseph Lee Dail, son of pioneer parents, is a clerk in the Nyssa post-office. He was born on May 9, 1912, on a farm near Arcadia, before the permanent house was completed. His parents, Ira and Anna Dail, came from Linneus, Missouri, to Oregon in the spring of 1903. Ira Dail passed away of heart ailment November 7, 1937. His widow still makes her home in the Arcadia vicinity. Besides J. Lee Dail, their children are: Mrs. Mary Davis, Huntington Beach, California; Mrs. Pearl Bullard, Mrs. Lillian Ziettercob, Mrs. Bertha Mathesly, all of Arcadia; Harold Dail, Nyssa; and Mrs. Lucile Lakey, Boise. Mrs. Anna Dail is a sister-in-law of the late Oscar F. Neese, for years a rural carrier from the Ontario postoffice in the horse and buggy days. Her three brothers, Albert, Jesse and Charles Thompson came west from Iowa before the arrival of the Dails. Albert is now a farmer on the Owyhee; Jesse died in Nyssa in 1848, and Charles lives at Emmett.

Artie Robertson, son of the late Joe Robertson, a pioneer farmer of the Owyhee, is the rural carrier on Route I from Nyssa, which position he has held for the past twenty-nine years.

Cecil Smith, also a son of pioneers, is a Star Route carrier between Nyssa and Adrain. He was born on a ranch in the Owyhee area where many of his relatives still reside.

D. R. Ehrgood's farm, adjoining the L. B. Boyle homestead on the north, is now partly included in the Ehrgood addition to Nyssa. When Nyssa was incorporated as a city in February, 1903, Daniel R. Ehrgood was chosen mayor. The other city officials chosen were S. N. Emison, Charles Winters, George Closen and J. R. Evans, councilmen. Sanford N. Emison also filled the office of city recorder. Phineas M. Warren was mayor for six years, from 1921 to 1927.

The city officials who took office in 1940, were: J. C. Olsen, mayor; R. G. Whitaker, Leslie McClure, Dwight Smith and Herschel Thompson, councilmen; M. E. Solomon, recorder; Elmer J. Stirnweis, treasurer. Nyssa has changed her form of city government and is under the supervision of a city manager.

The city officials chosen in 1944 were: E. K. Burton, city manager; Mrs. Hilda L. Tensen, treasurer; George Henneman, mayor; Emil Stuntz, George Sallie, Lloyd Wilson, Harry S. Miner, Fred Brecken, councilmen; Orville Meze, chief of police; Vern Parson, fire chief. Don Graham is justice of the peace. Arthur V. Cook was Nyssa's chief of police for over eighteen years. Both the former and present police chiefs, Cook and Maze, were candidates for sheriff in the 1948 republican primary election.

Mrs. Hilda Lafrenz Tensen, the city treasurer, is a Nyssa pioneer of 1910. She is a native of Davenport, Iowa. Her father was a pioneer busi-

nessman of Nyssa. In 1912, she married Dick Tensen, a native of Holland, who had come from the land of his birth direct to this locality in 1898. They are the parents of four children: Mrs. Betty Rinehart, Mrs. Tiena Bothamley, Mrs. Louise R. Petterson and Dick G. Tensen. Dick Tensen, Sr., a prominent figure in farming, business enterprises and irrigation development for approximately forty-five years in this locality, died at his home in Nyssa, December 6, 1944, at the age of 69 years. He had been a director and president of the Owyhee Ditch Company for fifteen years. For over ten years, immediately preceding his death he was engaged in partnership with Sid Burbridge in the Nyssa Packing Company. Mr. Tensen had been a director of the Bank of Nyssa, and was one of the organizers of the Nyssa-Arcadia drainage district and was engaged in farming and livestock raising for many years. Besides his widow and four children he was survived by two brothers and two sisters. Pieter Tensen, of Nyssa, and William Tenson, of Holland, now deceased, Mrs. Robert van Gilse, of Glendale, California, and Mrs. Dick Groot, of Nyssa. Dick Tensen served several terms as councilman and two terms as mayor of Nyssa.

Dr. J. J. Sarasan was the first physician to locate in Nyssa and is still the pioneer doctor in the city and county. Dr. W. J. Wesse, of Ontario, is the second oldest in the county. Dr. Sarasan takes a great deal of interest in civic and public affairs. He was very instrumental in securing governmental aid for the Owyhee irrigation project.

C. C. Wilson was the first attorney to locate in the gate city. He is now deceased. E. M. Blodgett was the second lawyer to open an office following Mr. Wilson's departure from the city. Mr. Blodgett was at one time attorney for the Owyhee irrigation district and the Ontario-Nyssa irrigation district. He was also city attorney of Nyssa. In 1924, he was elected district attorney for the county and served until 1929. Mr. Blodgett was one of the Kingman Kolony settlers who came from Illinois with A. G. Kingman, head of the colony that located in the Big Bend section, and for some years followed farming there before opening his law office in Nyssa. He died in Nyssa, March 26, 1934, at the age of 65 years.

Most of the commercial establishments in the present city of Nyssa are now situated west of the railroad track. The town was first started east of the track, and south of the section house and railroad water tank. The first four stores were established by L. B. Boyle, H. Megorden, Emison Bros. and J. L. Lee and Alonzo Peer established the Peer Hotel. J. L. Lee had conducted a store at Ironside before moving to Nyssa.

The first school house, a one-room frame building, was erected west of the city limits at a cost of \$1,000. The grade and high school building, since remodeled and added to, was erected in 1902. W. J. Mink, of Ontario, was the building contractor. There were sixty-six children of school age in the district in 1902.

Nyssa and vicinity enjoyed a period of prosperity in the early Nineties when government engineers first started survey work on the Owyhee irrigation project. The Arnold Construction Company, a private corporation, established headquarters in Nyssa in 1908-09, and began surveying the High Line ditch. Prospects looked very bright for settlers with a promise of sufficient irrigation water to reclaim arid bench lands that would greatly aid the farming communities. The survey and location work of the Arnold Co. was under the supervision of their chief engineer, George Binkley.

The policy of the government was not to interfere with the promotion of private enterprise in developing irrigation projects. When the Arnold Company started surveying the high line the government engineers withdrew from the work on the proposed Owyhee government project. The Arnold High Line project appeared to be progressing satisfactorily until July 1910, when the Trowbridge-Niver Company, of Chicago, that was to finance the High Line project, went broke. With the failure of Trowbridge-Niver the prospects for a privately owned irrigation canal to supply water for a vast acreage of Malheur county raw land was abandoned.

Several years elapsed before the efforts of the settlers, aided by members of the Nyssa, Ontario and Vale Chambers of Commerce could induce the government to again take up the project. In time the Owyhee and Vale-Warm Springs Government irrigation systems were installed that now supply sufficient water for the vast acreage of fertile farm lands from Big Bend to the lower end of Dead Ox flat and the bench lands of the Owyhee and Malheur. With the improvement and settlement of much more of the adjacent rich farm lands Nyssa, Ontario, Vale and other localities affected, took on new life as the population greatly increased. Malheur county now ranks third among the leading agricultural counties of the state.

The only beet sugar factory in the state of Oregon is located at Nyssa. The first beet sugar factory in the Snake river valley was built at Nampa, Idaho, in the early Nineties. After operating for some time the factory was closed and the large brick building that had housed the plant was converted into a milk condensery for the Carnation Company. When sugar beet raising was resumed on a large scale in the locality the Nampa sugar factory was re-opened.

During the Nineties, at the time the first Nampa factory was in operation, sugar beet planting in an experimental way was introduced in Malheur county by farmers in the Nyssa and Ontario vicinity. Good results at that time were attained and it was fully demonstrated that the soil was well adapted for sugar beet production. When the Nampa sugar plant ceased operation Malheur county farmers stopped planting sugar beets, except for cow feed.

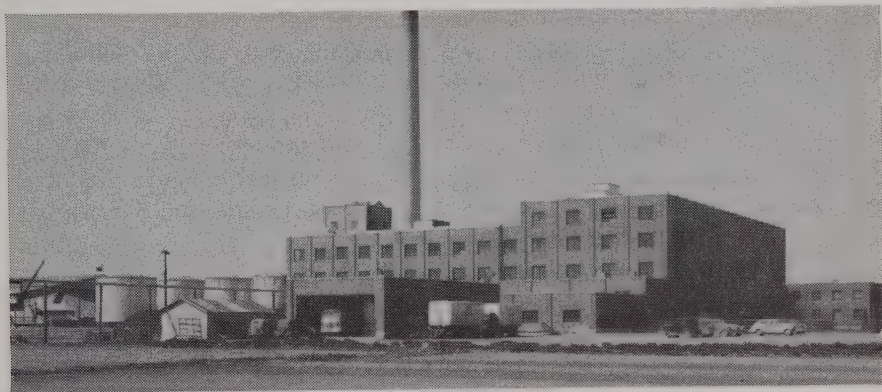
I quote from R. G. Larson, former county agricultural agent, and manager of the Nyssa sugar factory:

"In 1935, a few experimental trials of beet planting was started by R. H. Tallman, Idaho district manager of the Amalgamated Sugar Company. The beets were planted so late, however, that the trials were only partially successful.

"In 1936, seven hundred acres of beets were planted in Malheur county. The yield was excellent, and the crop was shipped to Twin Falls, Idaho, for processing.

"In October, 1937, construction on the sugar processing plant in Nyssa was started. In 1937, there were 7,217 acres of beets harvested in the Nyssa factory district, of which 5,164 acres were in Malheur county and 2,053 were in adjoining Idaho counties. The average yield for 1937 was 12.2 tons to the acre.

"By 1938 there were 8,024 acres of beets planted in Malheur county, which, with 7,217 acres planted in the Idaho portion of the district, made a total of 15,217 acres of beets to be processed at the Nyssa factory, which began its first campaign



Almagomated Sugar Company Plant in Nyssa

with the beginning of the 1938 harvest. The average yield of 16.18 tons to the acre brought the total harvest to 246,667 tons, from which the factory produced 698,570 bags of sugar in a campaign of 113 days.

"In 1939, acreage devoted to beets in Malheur county dropped slightly, totaling 6,686 acres; but the Idaho acreage jumped from 7,217 to 8,932 acres, which, despite acreage limitations imposed by the allotment program of the federal government, represented a slight increase over the preceding year, or from 15,241 to 15,618 acres. As previously noted, this tonnage produced 719,840 bags of sugar in the campaign of 105 days, and the gross value to the growers was listed at \$1,457,810.58, or an average acre gross value of \$93.34.

"This tonnage, due to a relatively high sugar content, enabled the factory to produce 719,840 bags of sugar in a processing season, or campaign of 105 days; and this tonnage, the 1939 crop, has paid growers to date \$1,398,742.08. An addition to this figure, moreover, may be added \$59,068.50, the value of beet tops, which when sold in the field, are reckoned at a price of twenty-five cents for each ton of beets harvested. This brings the grand total to \$1,457,810.58, or an average acre gross of \$93.34."

Mr. Larson has pointed out that growers, however, are not the only ones in Malheur county to benefit from the sugar beet industry, adding:

"The actual payroll is in excess of a quarter of a million of dollars. The company pays annually to Malheur county in the form of taxes more than \$50,000. Every acre planted to beets provide a labor payroll of \$25.00 and its is estimated every acre produces revenues for transportation companies in excess of \$35.00.

"Another feature of the sugar beet industry which has an important bearing on Malheur county income is livestock feeding, which utilizes by-products of beet growing and processing.

"The Amalgamated Sugar Company itself maintains a few feed yards in which

3,000 head of cattle are fed annually. In addition to the by-products of the industry, large quantities of hay and grain produced in the county are consumed. This situation is duplicated in every yard and on every farm in which cattle are being fed."

The acreage and output of sugar beets has greatly increased in Malheur county since 1939. In 1945, according to Agricultural Agent Ralph E. Brooke, \$3,125,000 was realized from 15,000 acres that produced 150,000 tons of beets.

A record crop was produced in 1946 by Oregon, Idaho and Utah beet growers for the Nyssa, Nampa, Burley and Twin Falls factories, according to H. A. Benning, president of the Amalgamated Sugar Company. He estimated 1,352 tons of sugar beets were produced that year that yielded about 3,500,000 bags of sugar. The total harvest in the Nyssa-Nampa district exceeded 1,357,600 of beets, setting a new record of 20.8 per acre.

The Nyssa and Nampa refineries set an all-time high record during the 1946-47 operating season with a manufacturing output of more than two million 100-pound sacks of sugar, according to the district manager, R. G. Larson. Sugar production by the middle of January, 1947, running at a rate of 27,000 bags per day, totaled 1,464,000. The approximate season's production at the Nyssa plant was placed at 1,150,000 bags and at the Nampa plant 900,000, which was an all time record for each plant.

The Nyssa plant, which was speeded up that year by the installation of a new continuous diffuser, sliced exactly 3,000 tons of beets in one day, on January 2, 1947. This was also a record set for an Amalgamated factory. The previous record, set at Nyssa, was 2,965 tons on November 17, 1946.

Fifty thousand acres of land in Malheur county and southern Idaho produced approximately 900,000 tons of sugar beets in 1947.

The Nyssa sugar plant closed the 156-day campaign of the 1948-49 season Saturday, January 29. Over 500,000 tons of beets were processed at the plant, according to Larson, with an average run of 3,500 tons of beets per day, which sets a new daily production record for the factory. The total amount of sugar processed during the year was 149,500,000 pounds, slightly under the 162,000,000 during the preceding year. Another production record was set by processing 10,900 bags of sugar in one 24-hour period. R. G. Larsen, the manager, died of a sudden heart attack in December, 1949. His successor is Jared Lewis.

Nyssa at present is the leading shipping point on the Union Pacific railroad between Pocatello and Pendleton, with 8,356 carloads mostly of farm products, being moved in 1948. The Nyssa Amalgamated Sugar Company was the largest shipper, with 1,686 cars of sugar, 1,144 cars of beet pulp, 285 cars of molasses shipped out and 2,497 cars of sugar beets shipped in. The second largest product, according to agent Thomas G. Jones, was 1,599 carloads of potatoes. Other large shipments included lettuce, 366 cars; wheat, 40; canned corn, 62; hay, 33; beans, 12; seed, 5 cars. Live-

stock shipments included 117 cars of cattle, 92 cars of sheep and 13 cars of hogs.

During the last decade Nyssa has had a greater increase in population than any other town in the county. According to the 1940 census the city population numbered 1,855. A city census of 1947 placed the population at 2,551. An estimated increase by 1950 should place the total over 3,000.

In the November, 1948, election, Nyssa elected four city councilmen: George Henneman, mayor; Emil Stunz, Harry Miner and Gordon Ray, the first three being re-elected, with Ray the only new member. J. C. Smith is police magistrate. Don Graham has been justice of the peace many years.

In 1948, the Nyssa voters approved a \$350,000 bond issue for construction of additional school facilities. Started \$140,000 street paving and curb construction, and a \$90,000 water system improvement. Permits were issued for fourteen business structures, thirty-four dwellings, five churches, a Legion hall and other improvements. Two of the churches, the Lutheran and Catholic, have been completed. A new modern Union Pacific depot was also built.

Nyssa's most important recent establishment is the District Memorial hospital to be erected at an estimated cost of \$260,000. By January 26, 1948, this amount had been oversubscribed \$2,309—by 1,650 donors—with more funds coming in. When completed the hospital will be dedicated as “a living memorial to those who sacrificed their lives for freedom in World War II and for the protection of the lives of the living.” The structure will be a large one-story brick fire-proof building, built in accordance with the code requirements of the Oregon State Board and United States Department of Health. Besides Nyssa this modern hospital will serve Nu Acres, Apple Valley, Owyhee, Big Bend, Adrain, Parma, Wilder, Roswell and surrounding communities.

CHAPTER 25

WESTFALL, HARPER AND JUNTURA

*Yet never a doubt, nay, never a fear
Of old, or young, knew the pioneer.*

—*Author Unknown.*

Westfall was a typical town of "The Old West." It could appropriately be called the last frontier town in Malheur county. It first appeared on the map about 1882 when Phil Cammann opened a store on the old Levi Westfall place. There were only four small houses in the town. Levi Westfall, for whom the town was named, located the homestead in 1870. He was a West Virginian and was the first pioneer to locate in the Alder creek valley—later Bully creek. James and Jack Westfall, brothers, came to the vicinity with their families in the early Eighties. All of the first—and some of the second—generation of Westfalls have passed away. James F., son of James Westfall, was born in Westfall. In early manhood he farmed and raised livestock on Bully creek and later engaged in business in Juntura and Fruitland. He died at the hospital in Ontario January 18, 1946, at the age of 64.

The first settlers to locate in the Alder creek valley following Levi Westfall were J. Andre Newman, Brent Reeves, Charles Becker, Moze W. Hart, Dan Brady, Joseph A. Madden, James L. Mullen, John L. Sells, John Zimmerman and his sister, Mrs. Nancy Kimes, and her two sons, Frank and Johnny. Zimmerman and the Kimes family came from California by team and wagon in 1880. Mrs. Kimes' husband had died in California a short time before. One of the first settlers to come to the community was J. Andre Newman, better known to old timers as Andy Newman. He was born in Jacksonville, Tennessee, July 7, 1850. When a small boy his parents moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas. While still in his 'teens he came to Oregon with an uncle, Aaron Newman, and with other volunteers was soon engaged in fighting Indians. After settling on Bully creek he was in a battle with Indians on the Malheur river where the town of Harper now stands. Andy Newman was a friend of Peter French and was with him in Indian fights in which both had many narrow escapes.

The worst Indian trouble early settlers had in the Westfall locality was due to stock stealing. Many ranchers continuously risked their lives in try-

ing to recover the animals. On one raid the Indians stole Levi Westfall's bible, tore out the leaves, and scattered them along the trail.

Andy Newman married LaVena Solders, a native of Crescent City, Iowa, at Wingville, Oregon, in November, 1876. She was a daughter of the C. F. Solders who came to Oregon in 1875. After her husband's death, Mrs. Newman moved to Ontario and married William Stewart, a former Westfall stockman. He died a number of years ago. The widow later moved to Payette, where she died February 16, 1947, at the age of 85 years.

Eliza, daughter of J. Andre and LaVena Newman, married George Phipps, a native of North Carolina, at Baker, Oregon, April 3, 1896. They were stock raising on Bully creek until about 1910 when they moved to Ontario where Mr. Phipps died a few years later. Mrs. M. E. Phipps, now residing in Payette, conducts rooming houses in both Payette and Ontario. Her eldest son, Clifford O., served in the army on the Mexican border and overseas in both World Wars. He and his wife live in Monterey, California. Mrs. Phipps' eldest daughter, Mrs. Andra Virginia Taylor, has been with the Webber Bank in Wardner, Idaho, for seventeen years. She is now vice-president and cashier. The second son, Ralph, is a Malheur county stock-raiser. The youngest daughter, LeVena, married Waldo Terteling, of J. A. Terteling & Sons, builders of the Owyhee river Government Reclamation Reservoir. They reside in Boise, Idaho.

John Zimmerman and his sister, Mrs. Kime, took up homesteads at the mouth of Indian creek in 1880. Mr. Zimmerman and his two nephews took charge of a band of cattle on shares for a stockman named Jarvis. They milked sixty-five head of cows and made butter to sell in the mining camps at fifty cents a pound. According to Frank Kime, cattle wintered on rye grass and came out fat in the spring—except the winter he arrived—the hard winter of 1880-81. Some stockmen from the John Day valley had driven their cattle over to Bully creek to winter on the range; among them were Shuman, Truman and Rube Moss. Other stockmen from Ironside drove cattle down to winter on Hog creek near where the town of Harper is now located. There being no hay obtainable, Kime said, cattle died by the hundreds. Frank Kime and his uncle, John Zimmerman, skinned cattle all winter and in the spring of 1881 hauled the hides to Baker City. Ranchers began to put up hay after the hard winter of 1880-81.

The stage road between Baker City and Harney valley in the early Eighties missed the town of Westfall—then known as Bully—and passed by the Charles Becker ranch on Clover creek. Mrs. Nancy Kime was appointed the first postmaster of Bully. The postoffice was at the Kime's home, three miles east of Westfall. Phil Cammann enlarged his store at Westfall into a general store and was appointed postmaster to succeed Mrs. Kime. This was about the time the railroad was building through the lower Snake river valley and location of the Oregon Short Line station at On-

tario. A few years later Mrs. Kime went to Caldwell to reside while her two sons looked after the large ranch.

Before the building of the railroad, supplies for the upper country as far inland as Harney valley were brought in from the west. Freight was shipped by boat from Portland to Umatilla Landing on the Columbia and hauled from there by team and wagon over the Blue mountains by way of Pendleton, La Grande, Baker and Malheur City. When the railroad reached Ontario the Bully creek settlers decided to build a wagon road to the nearest railroad point. A road was built through Cottonwood canyon, ten miles east of Westfall. Before then this canyon was almost impassable even on horseback. Some of the large cottonwood trees in the canyon were two feet in diameter and one hundred feet tall. Following the building of the road, the stage line running between Baker City and Harney by way of Malheur City and Agency Valley was changed to run from Ontario via Vale, Westfall, Beulah, Drewsey and Harney City to Burns. After the completion of this wagon road most freight for interior points was hauled from Ontario through Vale and Westfall, which was a much shorter and better road.

At that time there was no road leading into Harper valley except by way of Westfall. The large 1,800-acre Pacific Live Stock Company Harper ranch included nearly all of Harper basin. The Malheur canyon both above and below Harper ranch was impassable for wagons and even horsemen had much difficulty in getting through. Soon after the towns of Ontario and Vale were established a wagon road was built down the canyon from the Harper ranch by way of Little valley and what is now known as the Vine's hill, near where Frank M. Vines established a ranch home several years after this road was built.

Among other early-day Westfall pioneers were: Isaac Ross, father of S. H. Ross of Ontario, who came to the Bully creek valley in 1881; Sylvester H. and Eli Bush, who came in 1882; Wash and George Hillman, brothers; Wesley and George Caviness; Stowell L. Payne and W. C. "Crocker" Johnson, and the latter's sons, Allen, Charles, Emmett and Taylor, who came in 1883; Elmer Doree, J. C. Skelton, F. S. Solders, Charles Newman, Guy E. Stewart, R. H. Shuler, William True, William Hubert, and John and Percy Napton.

Others who came in the late Eighties were: Joseph G. Lamberson, 1887; James E. Madden, brother of Joseph A. Madden, 1887; Joseph Randalman; Levi and Warner Wilson.

Among those in the early Nineties were: Ben F. Jordan, Phil Pfifer, John Howard and his two sons, Jim and John, Jr., Lytle Howard and his son, Frank. John Howard, Sr., and Lytle Howard were brothers. Later Lytle Howard and his son Frank moved to Ontario.

After Malheur county was created, Percy Napton, the first representative elected from the county, introduced and had a bill passed by the legis-

lature changing the name of the town and creek of Bully to Westfall. It is said that Napton's reason for having the names changed was because his sweetheart back in his former Missouri home had expressed the thought that the word "Bully" sounded vulgar. The town assumed the name of Westfall but the small stream still remains Bully creek.

Westfall grew from one small store to three general stores, two hotels, a bank, three saloons, a blacksmith shop, two livery barns, a large frame school house, church, candy store, garage and dance hall.

Following the death of Phil Cammann, the postmaster, Jack C. Skelton took over the store and was appointed postmaster. William Jones, the stockman, and his nephew, Frank Jones, established the second general store. Charles W. Madden, who recently died near Ontario, opened the third store. His father, Joseph A. Madden, was one of the first settlers on Bully creek. Jack D. Fairman came from Riverside and bought Frank Jones' interest in the Jones mercantile establishment and assumed management. Jones & Company established a bank with William Jones, president, and J. D. Fairman, cashier. Frank Kime conducted one of the two hotels and Ivan and Mart Hart ran the other. Phil Pfifer was for years the village blacksmith until his death there many years ago. Westfall was incorporated in 1895 and J. C. Skelton was the first mayor.

Jack D. Fairman, for more than twenty years a prominent citizen of Westfall, served as mayor and postmaster for some time as well as being the banker and one of the leading merchants. In a published statement Mr. Fairman paid this tribute to the old time pioneers:

"It always makes me rather tired when someone pities the pioneers. Looking back over this it looks pretty black and dreary; but in our blood was the itch of the pioneer's love of space; our wants were few and our enjoyments were simple. What we never had we did not miss; and a fight for a small improvement was as vital to us then as is the fight for a big irrigation canal today.

"They were a great race of men—those pioneers. They played poker, drank whiskey and ran race horses. They were a bad lot to cross, but they were the sole of generosity; they kept their word and they paid their debts.

"Like all frontier towns, arguments sometimes ended fatally for one party or the other. Once we had to call out the National Guard from Baker to protect some prisoners long enough to give them a trial. Shooting wasn't always to kill someone, however; it was just letting off steam on a big night. Our store building had many bullet holes in its walls; but so did others."

William M. Westfall, a nephew of Levi Westfall, was among the last of those old pioneers to cross the great divide. He died in Ontario on May 9, 1946, at the age of 81. Mr. Westfall spent his boyhood in West Virginia and came to Westfall in 1883, when 18 years of age. He was married in 1896 and spent most of his life farming in that community. His wife preceded him in death. His three sons, Ray, Victor and Delbert, reside in Ontario. Two daughters, Mrs. Etta Shultz and Mrs. Barbara Turner, reside at Harper. A third daughter lives in California.

The Howards were racehorse men. Lytle Howard was the owner of Red

S, a noted race horse of the early days. John and Jim Howard, sons of John Howard, Sr., operated a saloon in Westfall. One of their brothers who had been a jockey, was killed in a gun duel before the Howards came to Westfall. He had ridden races for Till Glaze, a well-known sportsman. Glaze accused young Howard of throwing a race and they engaged in a bitter quarrel. They met again in a saloon. Glaze was leaving just as Howard entered the saloon door. The two men were armed with revolvers which they drew and began firing, fatally shooting each other at the same time.

In another scrape during a brawl in a saloon in Westfall in the early Nineties, John Howard, Jr., wounded Elmer Doree. The two men had been good friends and Howard regretted his act as soon as he became sober. Doree refused to appear in court against Howard and their friendship was renewed. Doree, his wife and son, Ralph, later resided in Ontario where Mrs. Doree died. Some years later Doree was shot and killed in Idaho by a man in an altercation over the latter's wife.

Alfalfa hay was not introduced in Malheur county before 1881 and barbwire fencing was unknown. Frank Kime said fields were unfenced in the Bully locality when he came there and stock had to be herded day and night to keep cattle and horses off the hay fields. Deer and antelope were plentiful and had to be kept off the fields. William "Billy" Jones, James S. Stingle and other sheepmen drove their herds from Grant county in 1883.

Charles Becker, the prominent stockman, was among the first of the early-day pony express riders over the old trail between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. He counted among his friends William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, the famous scout and express rider. Mr. Becker carried the news of Lincoln's 1860 election from Kerney, Wyoming, to Salt Lake City. Mr. Becker had sailed to San Francisco and went from there to Sacramento where he joined the Pony Express. He moved to Malheur county in the Seventies and located a homestead on Becker creek, a few miles above Westfall, where he began raising livestock. He later secured more land holdings on Indian and Clover creeks.

Mr. Becker married in 1888; his wife had come from Iowa the year before to teach school on Willow creek. They were the parents of three sons, Val and Pink, who still reside near Westfall, and James, of Harper. Charles Becker died at his home above Westfall in 1925. Mrs. Becker, at the age of 79 years, passed away at the same home fourteen years later on June 3, 1939. Besides their three sons they are survived by six grandchildren: Mrs. Harvey Jones, Mrs. Mabel Pierson, Mrs. Paul Reed, Mrs. Mona Bassett, Eugene and Bud Becker.

Mr. and Mrs. Becker are buried side-by-side on the hillside in the Becker burial plot at their pioneer home. A year before Mrs. Becker's death, on June 5, 1938, the grave of Mr. Becker had been decorated with the Pony Express memorial flag by members of Boy Scout troops from Vale,

Harper and Grove. This flag has been placed on graves of Pony Express riders and station-keepers by the *Oregon Trail Memorial Association*.

In pioneer days all westerners wore boots. Range riders wore high-heeled boots. I once heard Billy Jones, in speaking of his old friend, Charlie Becker, say that whenever Becker got mad he would put his revolver in his right bootleg to have it handy in case of trouble. Neither of these two old-time stockmen ever ran into serious trouble. They attended strictly to their own affairs and all bad men respected their ability to protect themselves.

Wash Hillman, pioneer of 1870, came from Missouri by ox team. At one time he freighted between Boise and The Dalles. Most of his time, however, was spent in the vicinity of Westfall. He died at La Grande, Oregon, May 13, 1930, at the age of 75 years. Survivors were his widow, Ida, and eight children: Mrs. Ina McArthur, Mrs. F. L. James, Mrs. Harry Kime, Mrs. Glenn Miller, Mrs. Basil James, James A. Hillman, Mrs. Ronald Beiggs and Gilbert Hillman. His brother, George Hillman, made his home on Bully creek for many years.

Wes W. Caviness and George Caviness came in the Eighties. George Caviness died in 1899, leaving his widow, Mary, whom he had married at Atena, in 1887, and their son Bert Caviness, now a resident in Baker. Wes Caviness was one of the 1852 pioneers. He was among the early railroad and irrigation construction engineers. He was active in promoting irrigation districts and locating homesteaders on government land. He changed his residence to Vale about 1910. He was appointed surveyor general for Oregon in 1921 by President Harding and moved to Portland. Mr. Caviness died in a Salem hospital on June 13, 1931, at the age of 82. His wife had preceded him in death.

William Jones, the prominent stockman and pioneer banker, came from Grant county to Westfall in 1883. He located his stock ranch on the Malheur river some ten miles below Juntura at what is now known as Jonesboro. He was married in 1887 to Mrs. Hattie Sinkey, a daughter of C. F. Solders, another well-known pioneer. She had crossed the plains at the age of 4 years with her parents by ox team from Missouri. Henry and Clem Blackwell, two well-known pioneer Oregon stockmen, came with their parents in the same emigrant train. The Solders located first at Eldorado, at that time a booming mining camp. Later they moved to Westfall and then to Juntura.

Mr. and Mrs. William Jones were the parents of three sons, Ben, Forrest (deceased), and James N., the former state senator, stockman and banker. About 1888 the family moved to Ontario, but continued to maintain part time residence at Jonesboro on the Malheur.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones were divorced and she later married Arthur Van Buren, a member of a prominent pioneer family of Ironside. She died in

Ontario on March 17, 1937, at the age of 74, after a residence of fifty years in that city.

William Jones married Mrs. Mary Caviness, widow of George Caviness in 1908. She was born in Lane county in 1869 and moved to Umatilla where she later met and married George Caviness. After her marriage to William Jones they lived for some time on the big stock ranch at Jonesboro. About 1920, Mr. Jones built a large two-story dwelling in Ontario on south Oregon Street and moved there with his wife and daughter, Katheryn. Mr. Jones died in 1928. His wife and daughter continued to live at the Ontario home for some time. Miss Katheryn Jones is now the wife of Ray Barclay. Mrs. Mary Jones died at the home of her daughter in Clarksburg, Washington, on February 28, 1945. The remains were brought back and buried beside those of her husband in the Ontario cemetery.

Levi Wilson, another old-time stockman of Westfall, was born in Indiana, in 1866. He came to Malheur county in the late Eighties. For a number of years he conducted a stage station on the Ontario-Burns stage line at the foot of Bendier mountain. On June 2, 1897, he was married to Miss Ada Blaylock, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Blaylock, of Riverside. They were the parents of three children, Mrs. Iva Kimball, who died in 1923; George Wilson of Westfall, and Mrs. Libby Rash, who now resides in Ontario. Mrs. Levi Wilson died in 1919 and is buried near the graves of her parents and other relatives in the Blaylock burying ground on the old homestead at Riverside. Levi Wilson died at Westfall on December 3, 1932.

Jack Westfall came from West Virginia in 1884 with his family, including four sons, Henry, John, Albert and Jasper, and two daughters, now Mrs. Martha Westfall Solders, and Mrs. Alice Westfall Cole. Jasper was killed while serving as city marshal of Westfall by Asa Carey, May 10, 1912, when Carey was resisting arrest. Carey was sent to prison. Henry and John now live in Ontario. Henry Westfall and his wife, May, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on November 10, 1947.

Some miles southwest of the Harper ranch is Skull Springs where two brothers, Bill and John Bailey, had a horse ranch. When the springs were first discovered many animal skulls were scattered around the watering place and from this the springs gained their name.

Bill Bailey, oldest of the two brothers, considered himself an expert with a pistol. There was a story told of a shooting demonstration at the horse ranch where a number of buckeroos had assembled. Charlie Sneed, part Indian, who was one of the best "broncho busters" of that day, was one of the party members who had been imbibing rather freely. Bill decided to celebrate the day by attempting to emulate William Tell. His target was an empty tin can on Charlie Sneed's head. His aim was rather low and the bullet almost grazed Sneed's scalp. Bill prepared to take another shot, insisting he could do better. Replacing the tin can on his head, Sneed called

out: "A leetle higher Bailey." Others prevailed on Bailey not to attempt to repeat the feat, assuring him they were entirely satisfied with the first exhibition.

At the second murder trial in Malheur county, held in June 1900, the two Bailey brothers were convicted of killing William Humbert at his home near Westfall and both were sentenced to life imprisonment at Salem where they served the full sentence. On the day of the murder the Baileys had attended a democratic caucus in Westfall at which delegates were chosen to attend the county convention. On their way home they stopped at the Humbert place. They were said to have been under the influence of liquor. Bill is alleged to have started the trouble and was charged with firing the fatal shot. Three younger men, John Corder, Al and Lee Mullen were with the Bailey boys at the time and were taken into custody and detained as material witnesses, but all three were exonerated from having taken any part in the affair. This trial resulted in the first conviction of murder in the county.

Isaac Ross came from Coos Bay in 1881 and settled on a homestead adjoining the Levi Westfall place. After his death his widow sold the property to Crocker Johnson, a Virginian, who came to the locality from Missouri in 1883. Mr. Johnson sold the place in 1904 to Ben F. Jordan and moved to Payette. After the death of her husband Mrs. W. C. Johnson moved to Ontario where she resided until her death October 7, 1931, at the age of 70 years. She was the mother of Mrs. Elmer Doree, also deceased. Her son, Taylor Johnson, resides in Westfall.

Ben F. Jordan, a native Oregonian, born near The Dalles of pioneer parents who crossed the plains in early days, came to Westfall from Harney valley where he had been engaged in stock raising. After buying the Crocker Johnson place he continued in farming and stock raising and still makes his home there. Two of his sons, Harry and Herman Jordan, married sisters, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Joe E. Carter.

Morton C. Sells, a pioneer of the younger generation and a native of Westfall, is the son of John L. Sells, one of the early-day stockmen, who came to the locality in 1880. He is also the grandson of Joseph A. Morton, the well-known early-day pioneer. Morton Sells and his sister, Mrs. Selma Fairman, widow of the late J. D. Fairman, reside near Baker. Their mother, Mrs. Frances M. Sells, who made her home with her daughter after the death of her husband in 1912, died September 4, 1946, at the age of 80 years. She was queen of the Malheur county fair in 1942.

Joe Edwards, also named for his grandfather, J. A. Morton, was born at Wolf Creek, Idaho, October 14, 1887. Six months later he came with his mother, Mrs. Clementine Edwards to the home of her parents, the Joseph A. Mortons, near Ontario. For the next seven years Joe Edwards lived at the home of his grandparents. His mother married George W. Chambers, the blacksmith and retired sheepman.

Joe Edwards started bucarooing at the early age of 13 years. He graduated at the age of 20 from the eighth grade of the Ontario schools, bucarooing between terms. He has ridden the range all over Malheur county. Joe was with his uncles, Jinks and Rube Morton, when Rube was drowned in Dry creek while attempting to swim his horse across the stream during high water. At the age of 23 Joe started breaking horses for the Seawards and two years later went to bucarooing for the P. S. L. Co. at the Harper ranch. The two ranch houses were called the upper and lower Harper. Company cows roamed the hills and there were many rattle snakes under rocks and in the sage brush. Among others who rode for the Harper with Joe were Cam Kilburn, Jeff Froman, Don Baker, Billy Barkley and George Smith. They all served during World War I. After the war Joe worked in a zinc plate factory. On June 16, 1920, Joe Edwards was married to Miss Rhoda Everil Spaulding, of Westfall. She was born in Rexburg, Idaho, May 2, 1903, and came with her parents to Westfall in 1912. To this union were born Clemantine May in Ontario March 3, 1924, and Helen Jean, in Oregon City, June 26, 1926.

Another rancher well-known in the Westfall and Harper communities was Jay D. "Pat" Fahy, now deceased. He was born in Attumway, Iowa, January 29, 1877, the eldest of four children, two sisters and a brother. After the death of his father, Patrick Fahy accompanied his mother and her other children to Alba, Missouri, where her father, Dan Fox and her stepmother resided. About 1898, Pat came to Oregon with Fred L. Gregg, who was returning to Ontario from his former Alba home. The next spring the two men went on a trapping trip along the North Fork of the Malheur. After securing enough beaver to load a row boat they started down the river from Beulah to Ontario. On the river trip the boat upset and they lost most of their provisions but managed to save their beaver pelts.

After this experience Pat secured a job herding sheep for Web Anderson in the vicinity of Westfall and later worked on a ranch for Al Nolan and tended bar in John Sells' saloon in Westfall. J. D. Fahy and Miss Lucy Lamberson were married in the Wilson Hotel in Ontario February 3, 1901. Jay Branson, a boyhood friend of Jay Fahy, came from Alba and married Miss Fanny Lamberson, a sister of Mrs. Fahy. The two sisters were stepdaughters of John Zimmermman, the well-known stockman and farmer. Mr. Zimmerman married a widow, Mrs. Emma Kendall Lamberson, in 1893. Her deceased husband, John Lamberson, was a brother of Judge J. G. Lamberson. She was born at Cove, Oregon. The Zimmermans were the parents of two sons, Russell and Leonard. Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman are both buried in the Ontario Evergreen cemetery.

Soon after their marriage the J. D. Fahys took a homestead twenty miles above Westfall, where they resided for the next fourteen years and engaged in raising horses and cattle. In 1915, they sold the homestead and moved

back to Westfall, where they lived for four years, part of the time on the Jay Bronson place, known as the "Stone House ranch." Their son, Elwin, died in 1921, at the age of 16 years. In 1926, J. D. Fahy bought a small tract of land from the P. S. L. Co. in Harper basin and moved his family there in the spring of 1927. Here they engaged in turkey raising until his death from a heart ailment in Holy Rosary hospital at Ontario, May 25, 1935. Funeral services took place at Harper where he is buried. He is survived by his widow and two daughters, Marie, wife of L. P. Chastain; and Hazel, married to Jack Whittenburg, both residing in Harper.

Jay Branson and wife moved to the Willamette valley in 1919 where Jay took a position in a lumber mill at Dallas in Polk county. After fourteen years he retired and they now live at Agate beach on the Oregon coast. Mrs. Fanny Branson has become famous in wood-work, making miniature life-like wooden horses and other carvings that she sells from \$25 to \$200 each. With some of her miniature products she has been shown on the screen by Paramount and Universal moving picture companies.

HARPER NAMED FOR TWO PIONEER BROTHERS

When the Malheur valley railroad started building through Malheur canyon and work was started on a depot at Harper in 1909 most of the town of Westfall was moved to Harper. At one time Westfall contained three stores, a bank, two hotels, two saloons, two livery barns, a blacksmith shop and other business establishments and the homes of about 300 families. Soon after Harper became a railroad station Westfall dwindled to one store, one dwelling, a school house and a church.

The town of Harper is located on the old Pacific Live Stock Company Harper ranch. Both Harper and Juntura first started as tent towns. The first commercial building in town was built near the site of the first log cabin, built by the Harper brothers in the early Seventies. This log hut and a few stock corrals were the only improvements in the valley when the P. S. L. Co. acquired practically all the land in the basin about 1880. The company built a large two-story ranch house and barn and made many other improvements. After the railroad built through the basin and the Vale Irrigation project was installed the cattle company divided the land into small tracts which was sold to settlers.

At the time the Harper depot was being built, J. D. Fairman and John Turner established the first store and Frank Kime opened the first hotel in the new town. Fairman sold his store in Westfall to Lawrence Lamberson, a son of former county judge, J. C. Lamberson. The first hotel in Harper was made of tents, set up during winter months. Frank Kime, who had been conducting a hotel in Westfall, moved a large tent on bobsleds from there

to Harper. The same night he put up the tent—used then for a dining room—and fed twenty-seven people at supper time. He put up a number of smaller tents that he rented as rooms until his hotel was completed and opened to the public.

The Jones & Co. bank was moved from Westfall to Harper and the name changed to the Bank of Harper, with J. D. Fairman, president, and Estes Morton, cashier. Within the next few years the town of Harper enlarged until there were two general stores, a bank, two hotels, postoffice, lumber yard, two garages, five service stations and other business places. A high school and three churches were built and Harper became an incorporated city. J. D. Fairman, who had been mayor of Westfall, was the first mayor of Harper and served in the capacity for twenty years. A leading pioneer merchant is C. Y. Chester, who before coming to Harper, had conducted a meat market in Vale.

Frank Kime was killed by a train in Harper many years ago. His wife had preceded him in death. They were the parents of two boys and a girl, David, Henry and Maud. All were grown and married at the time of their father's death. Frank Kime's brother, John, died of diphtheria about 1908, leaving a wife and three children.

Jack D. Fairman, who served two terms as county commissioner, and was called "*the father of the Vale government irrigation project*," was born in London, England, October 20, 1868. At the age of 17 he and his brother, Harry, came to Canada and three years later to the John Day valley. In 1888, they settled at Riverside, on the Malheur river. After going to Westfall, Jack Fairman married Mrs. Thelma Sells Westfall, widow of James F. Westfall, November 5, 1906. While residing in the upper country, Mr. Fairman was often called on to officiate at funerals. In 1932, the Fairmans moved to a farm near Cairo where they resided until his death on Christmas morning, 1943. At the time of his death he was a representative of the farmers on the Advisory Board of the Taylor Grazing Act. He had at different times been clerk of the Westfall, Harper and Cairo school boards and was chairman of the County Board of Education until he resigned shortly before his death because of ill health.

The following information was given by Mrs. Grace Schlupe, a Harper valley pioneer, to Mrs. Bertha Carter, who aided in gathering information for this book:

"I was born April 26, 1881, in Douglas county, Oregon. My father, Andrew Jackson Lee, when a boy, crossed the plains with the rest of his family in covered wagons over the old emigrant trail from Iowa, in 1847, settling near Lebanon, Oregon. My mother, Elizabeth Larkin, came overland in 1853 and located at Eugene. At that time Eugene was a single log cabin. The Larkins settled on a homestead that is now in the center of Eugene. My parents were married May 2, 1861, and lived at Lebanon five years and then took up a homestead at Youcalla where they lived for the next forty-five years.

"I was married October 15, 1902, to Jasper Stock, a neighbor boy. We made Youcalla our home for fourteen years. Our only son, Ross, was born at Drane, Oregon, November 12, 1903. In 1916, accompanied by my brother, Alvin and his family, we came to Harper valley by team and wagon. My brother and family moved to a desert claim above Harper. My husband and I went to work for the P. S. L. Co., I as cook and my husband working on the ranch. In 1920 my husband built a house in town where I lived between cooking jobs.

"After making my way alone for a number of years I was married in July, 1927, to Jesse Schluppe, who had a nice place south of Harper. I lived here a number of years quite happily, taking care of his aged parents. His mother died in 1929 at the age of 74. Her husband passed away December 9, 1934. He was given a birthday party by a group of friends and relatives the summer before his death. His birthday cake was decorated with 99 lighted candles.

"After my husband's death in 1934, I moved back to town and have lived here ever since with my son, Ross, who works for the railroad company. He also does cabinet work and carpenter work on my houses.

"When we first came to Harper it was known as the Harper, being at that time an 1,800-acre ranch owned by the P. S. L. Co. There were two large ranch houses, the lower house being headquarters for the vacqueros, and the other house the farming headquarters. About 3,000 head of company cattle roamed the hills through the summer and were pastured and fed hay at the ranch in the winter. The average crop of wild hay and alfalfa was 1,200 tons. Haying would start in June or July and continue until September and sometimes into October.

"The town of Harper was well started when we arrived in 1916. The store and postoffice was in one building. John Turner was postmaster and Jack Fairman ran the store. The hotel was run by William West. Joe Coburn had a barber shop and confectionery store. Coburn also played for dances. There were several private homes in town and a good frame school house. This school house has been abandoned for school and is now being used as a Grange hall. A well-attended grade school and a fully accredited high school are now established in the brick school building. Little Valley and Harper Valley, which were once grazing and hay lands, are now cut up into small farms, and a population of six hundred in Harper and vicinity make it a good place to live."

A pioneer couple who made their home in the Harper vicinity for twenty years were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Carter. Mrs. Carter died November 19, 1946. Miss Bertha Elizabeth Bowen, a niece of this scribe, was born in Northport, Wisconsin, July 10, 1878, the only daughter of Lorenzo Bowen and Mary Ann Gregg Bowen. When Bertha was a mere baby her parents returned to Alba, Missouri, where Mrs. Bowen died about a year later. The child made her home with her maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Gregg Stewart, until she was two years old when her father took her to Wisconsin to reside with her Grandmother Bowen. When she was about 14 years old, following the death of her paternal grandmother, she went to Farmer City, Illinois, to live at the home of her great-aunt, Mrs. Mary Ann Fox, a sister of Mrs. E. Stewart. Bertha Bowen first met Joe Carter in Farmer City. In 1898, she came to Ontario to again make her home with her Grandmother Stewart. Joe E. Carter came from Illinois the following year and they were married at Juntura by Justice J. A. Sizemore on July 22, 1900, after which they made their home in Juntura vicinity and later at Harper. Besides her husband, Mrs. Carter is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Inez Day, of Juntura, and her two younger sisters previously mentioned. Mrs. Carter died in Holy Rosary hospital in Ontario and is buried near her two sons in the Harper cemetery.

JUNTURA, JUNCTION OF THE RIVERS

Juntura, a quiet little valley that nestles in the bunch-grass hills at the junction of the North and Middle Forks of the Malheur river was named by B. L. Milligan in the early Eighties when he secured a postoffice for the few settlers located there. The Latin name was bestowed on the postoffice by the pioneer school teacher, because of its location at the junction of the rivers. For many years the sparsely settled valley was practically isolated from the outside world. Ontario, over seventy miles to the east, was the nearest railroad point until 1906, when the Malheur valley railroad was built from Ontario to Vale.

Travelers on horseback could go down steep narrow trails through Malheur canyon, impassable for vehicles, or else go by stage or private conveyance via Beulah over the Bendier mountain to Westfall, thence through Cottonwood canyon to Vale and Ontario, a roundabout way of one hundred miles. A trip to the railroad required two or more days. All mail came over the Ontario-Burns stage daily to Beulah. From Beulah the mail was carried on horseback three times a week to Juntura and Riverside. For some time before the railroad reached Juntura the postoffice was located in the store of John U. Hoffman, two miles west of the present town. Stock raising was the main industry—mostly cattle and horses. Hoffman, William Allen and Joyce Bros. were the leading sheepmen.

The town of Juntura is located on the former ranches of two early-day pioneers, Ed Sizemore and Fred Curry, near the junction of the rivers. The railroad reached Juntura in 1913. The first work train arrived in the fall of that year. Upon completion of the depot, Louis P. Delsole arrived as the first station agent in Juntura in January, 1914. When the rail line was built on into Harney valley, causing business to slacken in Juntura, Mr. Delsole turned part of his attention to raising fine cattle. From a small beginning he increased the number of his herd until he owned the largest band of purebred cattle in the western part of the county. He acquired large tracts of grazing land through purchase and lease. Ill health and scarcity of help during the war resulted in his disposing of his cattle and land holdings. He died in Portland where he had gone for medical attention, August 13, 1944. Mr. Delsole was a devout Catholic. He is survived by his wife, May who, as a bride, came with him to Juntura in 1914.

Patrick J. Gallagher, the pioneer lawyer, was among the first citizens to locate in Juntura and was the first city attorney. Mr. Gallagher and A. M. Byrd came from Burns and established the *Juntura Times*. Byrd was named postmaster. He was succeeded by Daniel Gallagher, a brother of P. J. Gallagher, and one of the first Juntura merchants, as was also Frank P. Ryan, who was also among the first postmasters and is now a prominent

citizen of Ontario. Dan Gallagher returned to his former home in South Dakota.

A STORY OF JUNTURA PIONEERS

By P. J. Gallagher

We first saw Juntura valley in July, 1913. We were then living at Burns, having come directly there from South Dakota, in March of that year.

Juntura takes its name from the Spanish "Juntura," meaning "forks," and in this case, meaning the forks of the Malheur river—the North Fork joining the Middle Fork at this place.

William Hanley and James J. Hill, who were instrumental in building the present railroad up the Malheur river, had plans for extending the line up the North Fork to tap the almost unlimited pine forest in the Bear creek and Sylvies valley region. This would have made Juntura another Bend, so far as industrial development is concerned.

Those plans were being very much discussed in the early part of 1913, when we landed in Burns—Mrs. Gallagher, and our three older children.

Feeling that the new railroad would not enter Harney valley for some time, and learning of the ambitions and expectations of the promoters of Juntura, we investigated their claim, and the embryo town, situated in the middle of an alfalfa field, consisting only of a group of tents and some newly begun business houses. The trip to Juntura was made in a new Ford car (Model T) belonging to Tillson L. Harrison, then a prominent doctor of Burns, who has since become a famous world traveler and adventurer.

We met the townsite agent and found there was a "first class opening" for practically any type of business, except the saloon business, which industry was represented by at least four individuals, whose buildings were being rushed to completion.

However, the writer felt that he could fit into two of the vacancies, and upon return to Burns, contact was made with A. M. Byrd, and in the hay-loft of an old barn we dug up a Washington hand-press and some old type, which belonged to the Byrd family, and which had done pioneer duty on the first paper in Burns. With this and a few fonts of second hand type, secured from other friends, we started the *Juntura Times*. "*A good paper in a good country*," was the symbol at the masthead.

We found such colorful and friendly characters as Billy Jones, banker, pioneer rancher and capitalist; A. L. Masterson; Dean Goodman; W. P. Allen; Fred Curry; Dave Graham, who was later cashier of the first bank of Juntura; and numerous other friendly ranchers and businessmen who were not only willing to support our newspaper, but also seemed willing to take a chance on the legal talent of the writer.

In a few weeks after the paper was launched, and law books unpacked, both publishers had visible means of support and "eating credit" established at two stores. The matter of living quarters was solved by simply pitching a tent for each family, on lots donated by the townsite company. These tents furnished families with comfortable living quarters during the summer and ensuing winter.

As yet the railroad only extended to Namorf, and it was not until later in 1913, or the spring of 1914, that rails were laid into Juntura, and train service established. The town then experienced the usual boom that results from being the "end of the line." Immense herds of cattle, horses and sheep were shipped out, and supplies for the inland country were shipped in. Stage lines radiated in all directions and long lines of freight wagons carried supplies to the inland towns.

My partner in the newspaper business was appointed postmaster and the newly organized city council named the writer as city attorney. The duties were light, the salary correspondingly meager.

The moral atmosphere of the new town was at least very tolerant. There was four thriving saloons, more or less open gambling, and the opulent shepherd, buckaroo, or railroad worker did not want for excitement and opportunity to make speculative investments. While drinking and its resulting gaieties were not suppressed, there was little serious trouble from that source. Before construction of a jail (which was never occupied) the inebriated celebrants were pushed into a cellar on a vacant lot and when he was able to crawl out he was considered sufficiently sober enough not to be a nuisance. Fighting was handled by letting the best man win, with due observance to the rules of the *Marquis of Queensbury*. Knives and guns were usually barred.

The extension of the railroad into Harney county, and eventually into Burns, took the foam off the boom, and Juntura soon settled down into the peaceful pastoral center that we find today. It is the heart of one of the most prosperous and beautiful valleys in Oregon, populated by the most enterprising and friendly people in the state.

Changing conditions and need for a wider field caused us to move to Ontario, in 1915. *Juntura Times* was sold to George Grow, who ran it for two years, and then it faded with the boom of the new town.

A large number of the old ranchers have passed on. Billy Jones, Adam and William Murray, William Allen; Masterson, Tom Woodward, John U. Hoffman, Ed Sizemore, William Hanley, W. J. Altow, Mrs. Angie Murphy, Elias Thompson, and many others. They were all fine people and it is the hope of this writer that in their new ranges they will find plenty of grass and fat saddle horses.

CENTRAL OREGON HIGHWAY

(The following data and information regarding the Oregon Central and John Day highways was prepared by H. C. Smith, construction engineer of the Oregon State Highway Commission, for the history.)

The route through Central Oregon from Bend via Burns to Vale was placed upon the state highway map by a legislative act of 1917. The first actual work was a location of 6.75 miles between Burrell ranch and Vale. The construction of this unit cost \$54,420.00, of which the state furnished \$20,000.00, the Government \$20,000.00 and the County \$14,420.00. In 1918, after a reconnaissance survey, the highway commission adopted the route from Burns to Crane, thence down the Malheur river to Vale, and work was started soon after on the construction between Burns and Crane.

In the early days of the county there had been several routes between Vale and Crane, but during the construction of the railroad, the route following the Malheur river was so interfered with by the railroad location that it was abandoned and not used as a through route until about 1928, when Malheur county, through the auspices of Commissioner Fairman, reopened the road from Harper to Juntura as a narrow trail.

In 1928 the highway commission started active location between Burrell ranch and Juntura, and construction followed immediately afterwards in progressive units, so that the route was completed into Juntura in 1932. A portion of the route east of Juntura was constructed by unemployed forces, the workmen being hauled to Juntura by train from Ontario and Vale. Sleeping quarters were established in all of the available buildings, including the church, and a mess house was set-up. Funds for this unemployment work was furnished by the State Highway Department, and one of the most efficient and economical operations for this type of work in the state was successfully carried out.

From 1927 to 1932 a complete study was made of the terrain between Burns and Juntura and an exhaustive analysis made of the effect of the rise and fall versus distance in highway location, since the route via Drewsey and Stinkingwater mountain was approximately twenty miles shorter than by Crane. In 1932, the route via Stinkingwater mountain was finally adopted by the commission, and time has since demonstrated the wisdom of this choice, since recent studies in highway research have completely demonstrated that distance is much more important and effects greater economies than savings in elevation.

The remainder of the route between Juntura and Burns was completed in 1939, although much of the oiling is of very light type and will need to be reinforced with a heavier surfacing before the road is adequate for heavy

truck traffic. The entire cost of the Central Oregon Highway through Malheur county follows:

State Funds	\$417,272.45
Government Funds	389,962.23
County Funds	78,946.67
 Total	 \$886,181.35

The Malheur river route of the Central Oregon Highway is of considerable historical interest as many of the names in this vicinity take their origin from the personal of the various expeditions of the Hudson Bay Company under their chief factor, Peter Skene Ogden.

JOHN DAY HIGHWAY

The John Day Highway was also placed on the state highway map by a legislative act of 1917. The first work was the location during 1918 of 9.85 miles between Cow valley and Brogan, the construction of which was \$53,958.00. The State allocated \$20,000.00, the Government \$20,000.00 and the County \$13,958.00.

In 1924, the State started the location between Brogan and Unity, passing some distance south of the former town of Ironside, which was eventually moved over to the new highway. Work was actively started soon after on the construction of this highway, which was completed with a graveled surfacing in 1930. Since that time the major portion of the road has been oiled, but there are still some unfinished sections between Ironside and Unity.

The total cost of the John Day Highway in Malheur county was:

State Funds	\$1,097,260.98
Government Funds	184,085.05
County Funds	88,699.76
 Total	 \$1,370,045.79

The John Day Highway derives its name from John Day, the hunter with the Wilson Price Hunt Expedition for the founding of Astoria in 1811. John Day became ill and had to be left with a tribe of Indians near the town of Weiser during the journey across the continent, and regaining his health is supposed to have followed the route of the John Day Highway to its intersection with the Columbia.

Between Vale and Jamieson the highway follows approximately the route of the original Oregon Trail as recorded in the Astor and Fremont expeditions.

CHAPTER 26

IRONSIDE, BROGAN AND JAMIESON

*For, at the magic touch of water, blooms
The wilderness, and where of yore the yoke
Tortured the toilers into dateless tombs,
Lo! brightsome fruit to feed a mighty folk.*
—Author Unknown.

Jamieson, Brogan and Ironside are the three Malheur county pioneer towns along Willow creek on the old John Day Trail now followed by the John Day Highway leading out from Vale to the John Day river and Columbia basin. Ironside takes its name from a nearby lofty mountain.

Most of the facts given in this chapter relative to Ironside were supplied the author by three estimable and distinguished pioneers who grew up in the vicinity from early childhood. One of them, Ernest Locey, a native of the county born at Eldorado, still makes his home at Ironside. His sister, Mrs. Mary B. Locey Hyde, one of the most successful pioneer school teachers was the first to conduct the primary grades in the Ontario school and was in charge of that department for many years. The third contributor to this story is James E. Lawrence, a former Malheur county sheriff, now engaged in business in Baker.

IRONSIDE

The first two settlers to locate in the Ironside vicinity were B. F. Sargent and a man known as "Bull" Taylor who came in 1871, the year after the first settler, Levi Westfall, located on Bully creek. James Carlile with his family came to the Ironside valley in 1872 and went into partnership with "Bull" Taylor in stock raising. The same year J. H. Rose and family located nearby and took up land on a small tributary stream to Willow creek that became known as Rose creek.

The first store was established about 1898 by J. L. Lee. A postoffice was established at Ironside the same year with Marion Young the first postmaster, who conducted the office in his home. I. A. Whitely opened a gen-

eral store in 1898 and the next year, 1899, J. L. Lee moved his store to Nyssa.

Miss Ida Roberts, who had been teaching school at Ironside, succeeded Young as postmaster in 1899. Miss Roberts' aged father, Thomas H. Roberts, a retired newspaper man and former treasurer of Harney county, resided with her. He was also the parent of J. E. Roberts, another newspaper man. Voda Moore took over the postoffice from Miss Roberts in 1901.

About 1903, R. M. (Morg) Carlile, son of James Carlile, purchased the general store from I. A. Whitely and took charge of the postoffice. About 1905, Morg Carlile sold the store to A. E. Nichols. For the next seven years Arthur Nichols ran the store and postoffice until 1912 when he sold to Ralph Lofton. Two years later Lofton died and the store was purchased by W. J. Hinton who conducted the store and postoffice for the next two years. In 1916, Hinton sold the store to his father-in-law, Henry C. Elms, a distinguished pioneer of long standing in the community. When the John Day Highway was built through the valley, Mr. Elms moved the store about two and one-half miles from the original location to the side of the road.

After purchasing the store, H. C. Elms conducted the postoffice and mercantile business for the next twenty-nine years, when in 1945 because of his age, he took another son-in-law, Floyd White, into the firm as partner and White became postmaster. Kenneth Grabner, a son-in-law of Mr. White, has a prosperous saw-mill and doing a good business near the store.

In a recent letter supplying information Ernest Locey wrote:

"We have a nice Grange hall, all paid for. Mr. H. C. Elms just celebrated his 89 birthday and is still hale and hearty."

*"Childhood days now pass before me,
Scenes and forms of long ago."*

REMINISCENSES OF MARY B. LOCEY HYDE

When Cyrus Locey, his wife and several small children came to Willow creek in 1872, they settled first on the old Morfitt place near the little mining town, Malheur. Eldorado, then a few miles away, was also a flourishing little mining town.

Ironside was mostly unsettled and was known as Upper Willow creek, but the old dark mountain stood as always, waiting for the new comers.

About 1876 or 1877, the Loceys moved farther up Willow creek to the neighborhood since known as Ironside. They found several families settled there on different ranches. Their nearest neighbors were Uncle Mac Diven and family. Their four children were among those who fell in the pathway of the dread diphtheria plague that swept the little town of Malheur that winter taking a heavy toll.

But there were other neighbors, Wisdoms and Carliles, and up where the stream forked the Rose family settled. It wasn't long until Mr. Locey and his wife started a Sunday school that continued for many years. Mrs. Locey led the singing, picking out new tunes from the old Gospel Hymn book, with the aid of an old tuning fork that is still kept in the family as a memento of those early faithful efforts.

About 1879 when some other families had moved in—the Beams, Loftons, Morrisons and Duncans—it was thought time to have a day school, so the first term was taught by Mr. and Mrs. Locey. It was quite an event. The school house stood near the old juniper grove. School and Sunday school went on through the years. Horses were tied to the junipers until the small trees were worn out or broken down. But the old monarch tree still stands, a landmark in the memory of early attendants at that old school.

This first little school house had been an old saloon building moved up from what was left of Eldorado by industrious men of the neighborhood. Another better school house was built by the settlers several years later not quite so close to the old juniper tree. Among the teachers who followed in that country school were John Sturgle, Henry Elms, Miss Susan Moore, and many others.

In these early years the two great events of the year were the Fourth of July picnic in the summer and the neighborhood Christmas celebration. No Christmas celebrations since have matched those old ones. A fir tree that reached to the ceiling made a wonderful Christmas tree and such trees grew in abundance in nearby mountain gulches. The neighbors came in bobsleds and cutters bringing all their gifts to hang on the tree. It was a wonderful time for the children.

To one of these timbered gulches the neighbors came in farm wagons on the Fourth of July, for in those early days there were not even carriages. There was usually a speech or two and the Declaration of Independence was read; then the most bountiful dinner imaginable was spread on table cloths under the trees. Rope swings were hung from the branches. These swings swung far and high and were the main attractions for the afternoon on the mountain sides.

The years brought many changes. Cars took the place of wagons and carriages, and when folks could travel far so easily they no longer met on these holidays. Something could be written about the further changes. A postoffice called Ironside was first installed in the Young's home and later taken care of at the store run by different merchants. My brother, Ernest Locey, has told more accurately about the early day merchants and the later organizing of the Grange and building of the Grange hall that has meant so much to the Ironside neighborhood.

BROGAN AND JAMIESON

Among the more historical events of 1909, and the next years following, was the development of an irrigation project on Willow creek in the vicinity of Brogan and Jamieson that brought about the establishment of these two towns. Prior to 1909, Dell, located to the north and across the valley from the present town of Jamieson, was the only postoffice between Vale and Malheur City after Glennville was moved to Vale.

In 1909, D. M. Brogan, who came with a number of other former Alaskans, conceived the idea of developing a large tract of arid farm lands in the locality. The town of Brogan, which took the name of the promoter, was founded near the center of the proposed project. Farther up the valley work was started on three conversion dams for the purpose of storing flood waters to irrigate some 50,000 acres. Mr. Brogan contracted for immense acreages of land, including the former large stock ranches of Emory Cole, John S. Edwards, John F. Weaver, Joseph H. Tague and others, together with established water rights that formed the nucleus of the project.

Among the first to become associated with Mr. Brogan in this large undertaking were Edward S. O'Donnell, Hugh O'Donnell, John Quigley and Charles Ashford. The Willow River Land and Improvement Company was organized. Filings were made for water rights and storage privileges on Willow creek and some of its tributaries. Three dam sites were located and construction work was started on them. Litigations soon developed over water rights and dam locations, which caused considerable delay, but were finally settled in the courts.

Through the efforts of Mr. Brogan a branch line of the Malheur valley railroad was built from Vale to Brogan—a distance of twenty-five miles. He procured the right-of-way and construction of the road-bed free of cost to the railroad company. The Malheur valley railroad later became a part of the Oregon Short Line and Union Pacific system. Jamieson became a station on the branch line between Vale and Brogan. Brogan soon became a thriving town. Vale also prospered as the result of being the nearest railroad point from which material for the construction of the branch line, the new towns of Jamieson, Brogan and for other enterprises were supplied. As a result Vale also increased in building and in population.

The Union Land and Trust Company was organized at Brogan, with J. W. Richards, Harry Flynn, J. E. Flynn and M. S. Stewart as the principal operators in selling land under the Willow River Land and Irrigation project. A new hotel, The Willow Inn, containing over fifty rooms was built at Brogan. Stores, a bank, postoffice and other enterprises were soon established. A depot, warehouses and a four-room school house was among other additions to the new town.

Upon the completion of Willow Inn, J. B. Addington took charge as

the first hotel proprietor in the town of Brogan. He was also the first postmaster, with his wife as assistant. Mr. Addington came with his family to Brogan from Minnesota about the time the Willow river project first started. In 1925, the Addingtons disposed of their interests in Brogan and went to Riverside, California. Mr. Addington's daughter succeeded him as postmaster of Brogan and conducted the office for a number of years. J. B. Addington passed away at Riverside in 1928, three years after going to California. His wife, Mrs. Eliza Addington, followed him in death three years later, on April 17, 1931. The Willow Inn was destroyed by fire some years ago.

J. L. Pope was the first merchant and postmaster of Jamieson. For many years he held the position of postmaster while engaged in business there.

The original plan of the Willow river project called for the construction of three storage dams to conserve flood waters flowing down from surrounding hills during the winter season. Dam No. 3, located near Malheur City, was washed out by flood waters in 1910 while under course of construction. A description of this reservoir, given at that time, states:

"This reservoir, when completed will be 125 feet high, capable of holding 47,762 acre feet of water, backing the water up the river three and a half miles and covering 1,245 acres of land. The dam will be built 100 feet high this winter and it is expected to be built to the height by January 1, and will hold sufficient water for 20,000 acres of land . . . The bottom of the dam is 60 feet below the level of the river and the foundation is made of rock and gravel . . . The base of the dam up and down the river will be 600 feet and will be 50 feet on top when finished."

In the original plan the two other reservoir sites were designated as Nos 1 and 2. Dam No. 2 was never completed but was used as a diversion dam from the main creek canal. No. 1 was partly constructed and used mainly as a distributing reservoir and storage of water from the hills. The canal system at the time it was constructed, was considered to be one of the very best and latest in type and structural work, and consisted of about five miles of mountain construction, all concrete-lined ditch with steel flumes where needed. This section was built entirely by pick and shovel, with all concrete mixed by hand and scooped into place with shovels. The rest of the canals, the longest and main one being over eighteen miles in length, were dirt with wooden flumes.

By 1911 the development of Jamieson was started under this new project. Four hundred acres of orchard was set out and considerable acreage was put into general farming. The town of Jamieson was platted and an extensive road program was put through. Company buildings were erected, a fine large school house was built and general development went forward.

By 1914 orchards under the Brogan project were bearing fruit and soon shipments of fruit, mostly peaches, from Jamieson began. It was estimated that about 2,000 acres of orchard under the project was bearing. It was

also estimated that about three hundred cars of fruit were shipped from Brogan and Jamieson in one season. General farming also produced satisfactory returns and the raising of cattle and horses continued on the range, which was the main business in this area before the building of the irrigation project. For the next few years Brogan was the principal stock shipping point in the county.

Brogan and Jamieson both became prosperous communities. The annual peach blossom festival was attended by hundreds of guests who came to Brogan from Ontario, Vale and other localities in special trains and other conveyances. In 1917, a community hall was built at Brogan by donation of funds and labor to become the meeting place of the blossom festivals which were attended by many Malheur county residents annually.

Beginning about 1918, just as the fruit and other crop productions were at their highest, a shortage of water occurred under the Willow river project, which again caused litigation in the courts. This time litigations were between the settlers under the project and the water company. Law suits continued in the courts for the next seven years, which finally resulted in a decision by the state supreme court wherein it was declared there had been too much land developed for the available supply of water under the project, and the land to be supplied was materially reduced. Vested water rights were reduced from the approximate 50,000 acres originally included under the system to about 5,000 acres. The decision of the court apparently was justified, as drouth conditions brought on by water shortage, caused an almost total loss in the orchard district and resulted in the abandonment of cultivation of many fine farms that had once flourished under the project promoted by D. M. Brogan.

The first peach orchard in the county was planted by the well-known early-day pioneer, Joshua L. Cole, on his ranch later owned by his son, Emory Cole, in the vicinity of Dell. Mr. Cole marketed his peaches in the mining camps of that day.

Mrs. Nella Cole Wilks, who now resides with her husband, Roy Wilks in Long Beach, California, is a granddaughter of the late Joshua L. Cole. She was born on lower Willow creek near the old Dell postoffice in 1890, the daughter of Leonard and Hester Bond Cole. Mrs. Wilks is a niece of Mrs. Elizabeth Butler, a prominent pioneer lady of Ontario.

The Dell postoffice was established on the J. L. Cole ranch on lower Willow creek about 1880. William J. Scott was among the first postmasters. He was a son of Oscar Scott, first postmaster of Ontario. It is said the Dell postoffice took its name from the dell or dale in which it was located. I have also been told it was named for W. J. Smott's wife, Idella, who was called Dell by her friends.

CHAPTER 27

MIGHTY RIVER RUNNING OVER SANDS OF GOLD

*"There's a country famed in story,
As we oft times have been told,
Of a mighty, mighty river,
Running over sands of gold."*

As a very small boy, in my old Missouri home, I remember how I marveled when first I heard the older children sing this song at a picnic in the edge of the timber near the banks of Spring river at the closing school day exercises. Later I heard the song in school and always enjoyed the story of the bold adventurer on his trusty steed as he started out to find this "mighty river" in the far distant west. How "he swam the Mississippi, and left its shores behind," seeking this mystic river "away out in the west; for it is always farther west. Oh, I fear we ne'er shall find it, for it is always farther west." As I grew older I considered this "mighty, mighty river" only a myth. But there is "a mighty river running over sands of gold," and in later years when I came farther west, like many others, I found this mighty river, the majestic Snake, "running over sands of gold," and for thirty-eight years lived within a mile of its banks.

From the time of the first gold rush into Boise basin, when prospectors were looking for "the lost Blue Bucket mine," miners with gold pan, pick and shovel, have worked along the gravel bars on Snake river from near the headwaters on down through the canyon below Huntington. Some have made good wages mining with gold pan and rocker, separating the fine gold from the sand on these bars. Some placer miners panned out as high as \$3.00 and \$4.00 a day, which was above the average wages of that time.

W. W. Emison and his sons worked the bars on his ranch along the river and are said to have obtained good results. My brother-in-law, F. M. Draper, made as high as \$2.50 and \$3.00 a day with pan and cradle, rocking out gold on a gravel bar extending out from Snake river on his property less than a mile northeast of Ontario. The average daily wage for labor at that time was from \$1.00 to \$1.50 a day.

One spring C. H. Leach and I worked a short time with Colonel Thomas W. Hart, a mining man representing a company that tested the bars along

the river between Ontario and Nyssa, mostly in the vicinity of the old Emison ranch. We sacked sand along the river gravel bars at various points to be shipped away to be tested.

In 1898, C. G. Singer, of New York, a member of the Singer Sewing Machine family, became interested in mining the gravel bars in the Big Bend area in the vicinity of the present town of Adrain. He had a mining dredge constructed for the purpose of dredging the bottom of Snake river. As a result of this dredging experiment for the next three years a mining boom was started in that immediate locality in 1901. The importance attached to this mining boom is revealed by the following extracts taken from an article that appeared in the *Ontario Argus* under date of July 13, 1901:

"The richness of the gold discovery at the Big Bend of Snake river is soon to be tested by both the Salt Lake and Ontario companies. Big Bend, the scene of the recent mining excitement, is situated about twenty-five miles south of Ontario. It is believed by many mining experts that rich mineral deposits lie but a few feet below the surface at that point, and perhaps the mother lode, that feeds the Snake river gravel bars may be located nearby. The formation of the ground is similar to the Alaskan gold fields, and may prove as rich.

"For the past ten years gold in paying quantities has been rocked out by miners at this point, and several companies have used the dredging process, but with unsatisfactory results; this plan proving almost a complete failure. C. G. Singer of the Singer Sewing Machine Company, who has been interested in these mines for the past three years, conceived the idea of sinking a shaft near the bar. Recently his plans have been carried into execution. The result was very satisfactory. The value, which gave \$8.00 at the surface, increased in richness to \$27.00 at a depth of forty-five feet. This fact leaked out through employees, the company still maintains that the public is being misled by speculators, and that the sinking process was a failure. Nevertheless, a grand rush was made to the locality and the grounds for miles around, reaching back into the foothills, have been staked off, Ontario parties securing some of the choicest lands. Companies have already been organized and development work begun. The most serious obstacle to contend with being water, which rises above the rich deposits and considerable machinery will necessarily have to be put in before the richness of the ground can be thoroughly tested.

"Among the companies who have been located at this point the following may be mentioned: McKenzie & Co., of Omaha; Kimball & Co., and Wanus & Co., Salt Lake; Coe & Co. and Greybill & Co., of Nampa; Millikin, Test, Jones, Rieger and Lackey, of Ontario; Robert Morfitt & Co., of Malheur City. Among other Ontario companies who have choice locations are the following: J. T. Clement & Co., Rice, Hart & Co., Draper, Mink & Co., A. F. Boyer & Co., W. E. Hulery & Co., Cortright, Davis & Co., C. A. Ritch & Co. All of the above companies have posted notices and done assessment work on their claims."

Like many of the mining camps of earlier days the Big Bend mining boom was of short duration and resulted in a loss to all who invested their money in locating claims and working assessments. Practically the only ones who benefitted were a few speculators and those who received pay for locating claims for others, among which was an Ontario real estate firm. It will be noted many of the heads of Ontario business firms of that day were induced by this firm to pay them a commission for locating them on claims. It appears that certain promoters capitalized on Mr. Singer's declaration that the sinking of the shaft was a failure as to increased output

by intimating it was made to cover up the real facts. This report proved groundless. C. G. Singer soon abandoned the field.

The finding of flour gold in the Big Bend locality extending to the foothills along the flats has been attributed to the changing channel of the river bed at different periods in the past. There was much speculation as to where the mother lode is located that supplies the flour gold found on many of the gravel bars along the river. If a mining device should be invented that can handle this fine float gold another paying industry would be added to the many resources of the great Snake river basin.

Placer mining continued along the gravel bars of the river for some time after the Big Bend gold excitement died out, but gold in paying quantities was never found. About 1916, a man named Williams built a small steam boat that was used in dredging for gold. At that time Williams was the owner of the big Whitley Bottom ranch on the Idaho side of the river near the Emison ranch on the Oregon side. My wife and I were members of a picnic party that took an excursion trip on this miniature steamboat, which started from the Clark ferry east of Ontario near the present interstate highway bridge. The trip was up the river to near the Williams ranch and back.

B. M. Sherman came from Des Moines, Iowa, in 1909 and improved a farm on the east bank of Snake river, a mile due east of Ontario. He engaged in raising berries, mostly raspberries, which he dried and sold in Ontario and other nearby markets. Mr. Sherman, of English descent, was about 30 years of age when he arrived. Prospering in the dried berry business he built a castle on the high river bluff over looking Ontario which became known as "*The Castle on the Snake*." He lost all during the depression following World War I, including his health. He went with his family from here to Modesto, California, and the "*Castle on the Snake*" was allowed to crumble and go to decay and is now a ruin.

Years after the Big Bend gold excitement that locality became one of the most productive and prosperous agricultural communities in the Snake river valley. One of the first farmers to settle in the community was E. H. Brumbach, who became one of the prominent pioneers of Malheur county and at one time was a county commissioner. Madam Lillian Nordica, the famous singer and opera star of former days, was a friend of Mr. and Mrs. Brumbach and visited more than once at their Big Bend home.

In 1909, A. G. Kingman came from Illinois and established a settlement in the Big Bend locality that took the name of the Kingman Kolony. The town of Adrain was located on the branch line of the Union Pacific system that was built from Nyssa to Homedale, Idaho.

With the beginning of agricultural developments in the Big Bend locality a number of pioneers who had first settled in other parts of Malheur county went to that vicinity to engage in farming. Among them were

W. S. Lawrence, who came to Ironside in 1884, and J. M. Taggart, who came to Vale from Indiana in 1898. Another was Tom Harris, one of the early-day pioneers of lower Willow creek. Mr. Harris, quite a tall man, was generally known as "Long Tom" Harris. For years he operated a threshing machine, threshing grain for farmers on Willow creek, the lower Malheur river and in Washoe bottom. The grain separator was run by horse power. When a boy I worked two seasons with his threshing crew on the lower Malheur and Washoe as a band cutter. John W. Blanton and "Thad" Pierce were the two men who took turns feeding the bundles of grain into the thresher cylinder. Mr. Harris died near Adrain.

Cam C. Kilburn, for a number of years a buckaroo foreman for the P. S. L. Co. at the Harper ranch, was another old-time pioneer to engage in farming at Big Bend. He was the son of an early day pioneer of Baker county, W. H. Kilburn, who served two terms as sheriff of that county from 1894 to 1898. C. C. Kilburn died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Esther Loveland.

In November 1944, gas was produced in an artesian well at the Frank Freel home near Adrain. A specially built gas tank was constructed over the well from which gas was piped into the wash room and kitchen where the family cooking is done on a gas stove. Other dwellers in the Big Bend community have detected gas in their water supply but not sufficient for practical purposes. The great Snake river basin may some day produce natural gas and "Black Gold" oil in paying quantities.

CHAPTER 28

PIONEER SCHOOL DISTRICTS

*Still sits the school-house by the road,
A lonely begger sunning;
Around it still the sumacs grow,
The blackberry vines are running.*

So sang the poet, John Greenleaf Whittier. But the little white one-room school house that stood by the cross-roads at Alba, Mo., where I first went to school, no longer stands by the roadside. The pasture at the back of the school grounds—studded by sumacs—where I gathered wild strawberries, blackberries and dewberries, is now a residential portion of the

small town, one-half mile north of Spring river. The little one-room yellow frame building, the first school-house built in Ontario—where I finished my schooling—has long since vanished from the middle of the road and the road is now a city street. In these two one-room school houses were held the only schools I ever attended. I never attended a graded school. The fifth grade was the highest grade at that time taught in country schools, so I never went beyond that grade.

The first public school in what is now Malheur county was at Eldorado. William Morfit was instrumental in organizing the district and was the first clerk of the school board. The first term of school at Eldorado was opened in 1869 and was taught by Terry Tuttle. Professor Tuttle was later the first school superintendent of Union county. When Malheur city was founded the Eldorado school was moved to that place. The school district was changed and a new district formed. Malheur county at that time was a part of Baker county, and there are no official records of these two school districts in the office of the county superintendent of this county.

District No. 1, of Malheur county, that embraced the settlement on lower Willow creek, is the first school of record in the county, and was originally known as District No. 12, on the records of Baker county. The date of organization was January 25, 1875. William G. Thomson, the last survivor of the local scouts with General O. O. Howard, in his memorable campaign in the Bannock-Piute Indian war of 1878, taught the first school in this district. The school house stood near the present town of Brogan. In an interview Mr. Thomson said:

"The school house was a small frame structure, rudely fitted up, and I probably had twenty-five scholars of all ages, sizes and dispositions. I guess we had in our little school every text book issued from the press, as I couldn't begin to name the different authors. Wilson's, McGuffey's and Towne's readers were among the books used."

The school term was four months and the teacher was paid \$60.00 a month. Later when Malheur county was created Mr. Thomson was selected as the first county school superintendent. A number of years thereafter he filled the office of county clerk.

District No. 2, was known as District No. 18 of Baker county, at the time of its organization on Sucker creek on December 10, 1877. The fourth school district within the present confines of Malheur county was established in Jordan Valley on January 3, 1878, and became known as District No. 3 after Malheur county was created. Sometime between 1878 and 1881 two more districts were established. The first, located on the Malheur river above Vale, became District No. 4, and the second located at Ironside became No. 5. District No. 23 was organized at Westfall in 1881, and became No. 6 upon the organization of Malheur county.

On March 10, 1882, District No. 24 was established in the settlement just above Vale on the Malheur river which later became No. 7. In the early days this district became known as "Fighting Seven," because of a number of altercations having taken place there when the school house was sometimes used as a dance hall at night. This district was later consolidated with other districts.

The present Ontario School District No. 8 originally was first established September 15, 1883, as Baker County District No. 30 and was changed to Malheur county No. 8 in 1887. District No. 9, organized as No. 32, was located near McDermitt in the extreme southern part of the county. No. 10, located on lower Willow creek near the old Dell postoffice, was established March 5, 1885. No. 11 was organized at Beulah, December 20, 1885. Nos. 12, Juntura; and 13, Riverside; were organized in 1886 and No. 14 on January 20, 1887. It will be noted there were fourteen school districts in Malheur county at the time the county was created in February, 1887. Vale District No. 15 was the first organized after the county was created.

The enrollment in the Malheur county schools in 1887—the year the county was organized—was 278, which was an average of about twenty pupils to each district. By 1895 there were over 1,000 children of school age in the county.

The second county superintendent of school was Frank Moore, elected in 1888. After serving one term he was succeeded by J. D. Denman, who served two terms from 1890 to 1894. Denman was succeeded by Miss Susie Moore, sister of former superintendent Frank Moore. After serving one term Miss Moore was succeeded by Frank J. Stanton in 1896, who was succeeded by B. L. Milligan. In 1900 Professor Milligan was re-elected without opposition, being the first candidate unopposed for that office since the organization of the county.

According to the report of Superintendent F. J. Stanton for the school year ending in the spring of 1897 there were 1,129 children of school age in the county, of which 756 were enrolled, of whom 390 were boys and 366 girls. Thirty-one teachers, twenty-two women and nine men, were employed, of whom nine held state certificates. The men drew salaries averaging \$51 and the women teachers, \$43. At that time the average school year was four months. The value of school grounds and buildings in 1897 was given as \$15,425; furniture, \$2,778; apparatus, \$1,168. Four school houses were built in the county that year, increasing the total number to seventeen. The annual school maintenance totaled \$5,998.54, of which \$5,446.00 was for teacher's salaries.

When School Superintendent B. L. Milligan assumed charge in 1898, the number of school districts had increased to 34, more than twice the number that were in the county in 1887. But some of the older districts

had been abandoned or consolidated, however, so the total number of active districts were less than 34. During Superintendent Milligan's terms in office eight new school districts were added, increasing the number to 42, six however, did not maintain schools. The average school term had been increased from four to six and a quarter months.

Superintendent Milligan's report to the state superintendent for the year ending in March, 1902, gave the number of persons of school age in the county as 1,556. Of that number 1,061, nearly seventy per cent were enrolled in the active schools maintained in the county. The average daily attendance for the year was 748. Forty-two teachers, twelve men and thirty



—Photo Courtesy of Argus-Observer.

First school house in Ontario after it was converted into a dwelling. Mrs. Hannah Millikin in front yard. Front door under vines.

women were employed. The estimated value of school property was \$23,000. That year \$23,600 was collected for school purposes; of this amount \$15,752 was expended, of which \$12,791 was for teacher's salaries. Of the forty-two teachers, twelve held state certificates. Two new school houses were built during the year, increasing the total number to thirty-two. There was but one log schoolhouse in the county, located in District No. 9, near the Nevada border. Besides the thirty-two public schools there were four private schools, attended by thirty-two pupils.

Ontario had the only brick school building in the county, a four-room, two-story structure built in 1894, which was doubled in size to eight rooms in 1902. Vale had the only stone school building in the county and there was only one other stone school building in the state. Other districts with frame school houses not previously mentioned were No. 16, above Vale

near the mouth of the Malheur canyon; No. 24, nearer Vale; No. 31, Mosquito, on the Dead Ox Flat; No. 30, Valley View, south of Ontario; No. 33, White Settlement; 36, Arcadia; 37, Owyhee; No. 39, Nyssa. The White Settlement district, between Ontario and Vale, was so named because the new school was painted white. Judge C. H. Brown was chosen first clerk of the White Settlement school board and filled the position for many years. In 1902 nine of the school districts in the county levied a special school tax averaging nine and one-sixth mills for each district.

The first high school was established in the county at Ontario in the autumn of 1912 upon the completion of the eight-room two-story brick building on the block south of the eight-room brick grade school building. The next year, 1913, a two-story four-room brick school building was built east of the railroad tracks and a second grade school, in which some of the lower grades were taught, was established. The railroad track became the dividing line between the two grade schools of the eighth school district. To distinguish them apart they became known as the east-side and west-side schools. Following the death of Professor E. B. Conklin, first superintendent of the Ontario schools, the westside grade school was re-christened the Conklin school. Some time later the eastside primary educational institution took the name of the Lindbergh school in honor of the first man to fly by plane across the Atlantic ocean.

The second high school in the county was installed in a two-story eight-room stone building at Vale. The Nyssa district was the next to inaugurate a high school, followed by Jordan Valley, Harper, Juntura and Adrain.

The first school house in Ontario was a small frame building, 20x30 feet, built in 1883 about the time the Ontario townsite was being platted. This small school house—one of the few buildings in Ontario at that time built of planed lumber, was painted a light yellow. At the time it was built it was outside of the original townsite on the north side and very close to the old Ontario-Burns stage road, about a block south of the present high school building. When the townsite was enlarged the schoolhouse was found to be near the center of Nevada Avenue. The building faced the south—fronting the stage road—with the only door near the southeast corner. At the entrance was a small uncovered porch about 6x8 feet. There was no belfry on the building. The pupils were summoned to their studies by a small hand-bell. The teacher's desk was on a small platform about six inches higher than the floor and near the door. The home-made blackboard was on the south wall back of the teacher's desk. The teacher's desk, recitation seats and all the children's desks were home-made. J. A. Draper some years later remodeled the desks.

The material for the school building and most of the construction work was donated by citizens. R. S. Rutherford donated the first load of lumber for the building of the schoolhouse. T. D. Barton, the first painter

in the town, painted the school house. J. T. Clement, R. S. Rutherford and Richard W. Welch were the first directors of the school board and Thomas Lee was the first clerk.

The first Ontario school was a three month's subscription school, taught by Miss Ione Morfitt during October, November and December, 1883. She was the only daughter of William Morfitt. The scholarship roll of this first Ontario school, numbering twenty-three pupils, has been preserved. They were: William, Charlotte and Anna Brinnon; Frances, Clementine, Ella, Alma, Jinks and Reuben Morton; Mary and Rose Carter; George, Nettie and May Darr; Belle, Minnie and Andrew McGregor; Will Prichett; Roy, Ben and Charlie Rutherford; Loy and Howard Lee. Will Prichett was an uncle of the two Lee boys and was some years older. Of the 23 pupils who attended the first Ontario school only seven are alive in 1949. They are Mrs. Mary Carter Stewart, Mrs. Minnie McGregor Ross, Ontario; Mrs. Alma Morton King, Grants Pass; George A. Darr, Unity; Roy S. Rutherford, Long Beach; Loy and Howard Lee.

The next year, 1884, the first Ontario public school was taught by G. W. Watkins; the 1885 term by J. L. Sturgill; 1886 by F. M. Jewell (this was the first Ontario school I attended.) William Gribble was the teacher in 1887. John D. Denman taught the next three terms, 1888-89-90. Professor Denman was elected county school superintendent in 1900 and assumed office in 1891. Miss Ada F. Madden taught the next two terms in Ontario.

In 1892 a second room, 20x20, was added to the rear of the school-house, by J. A. Draper and J. T. Clement, and a second teacher, Miss Rilla Taylor, was put in charge of the primary department. A door connected the two school rooms and another outside door was put in the north end of the building. Mrs. H. B. Gillispie was engaged as principal in 1893-94 and was succeeded by E. C. Bunch. There were now fifty children of school age in the district.

In the summer of 1894 a four-room brick building was built on the present site of the Conklin school building. This two-story brick, with two rooms on the first floor and two on the second, faced the east. In the 1894-5 term two lower rooms were occupied with E. C. Bunch and Miss Ida Holland, teachers. In 1896, Miss Holland succeeded Professor Bunch as principal with Miss Mary Locey in charge of the primary department. Miss Locey, now the wife of Louis Hyde, residing in Ontario, is a graduate of the Monmouth State Normal. She inaugurated a very proficient system in primary teaching that later became the standard throughout the state.

Miss Ida Holland married E. A. Fraser, who was bookkeeper and assistant manager of the Kiesel, Schilling & Danilson general store. Miss Holland was living with her widowed mother in Payette when she was employed to

teach in the Ontario schools. Miss Locey came from Ironside, where her parents resided, and made her home with her sister, Mrs. J. A. Lackey and husband while teaching.

O. M. Frasier was engaged as principal for 1897. The sixth grade was added in 1898 it was necessary to employ three teachers because of the increased attendance. The principal this year was George W. McCoy with Miss Louise Jones and Miss Dora Hard added to the teaching staff which now numbered four. Miss Jones, a sister of William Jones, came from the Willamette valley. All four of the school rooms were now occupied by pupils.

In 1899, the eighth grade had been added with P. A. Snyder, principal; Miss Marguerite Newman, Miss Retta Payne and Miss Mary Locey, teachers. Mrs. Payne came from Woodbine, Iowa. The first graduates from the sixth grade, the highest grade taught in the Ontario schools, who completed the course in the spring of 1900, were Iva Purcell, Jeffie Jones, Annie Danilson and Hosea Callaway. The last three named are deceased. Mrs. Iva Purcell Madden has for years been postmistress at Cascade, Idaho. Mrs. Jeffie Jones Brown died in 1946 in Portland.

W. J. Peddford succeeded P. A. Snyder as principal and Miss Emma J. Wade, of Payette, replaced Miss Newman. Mrs. Payne and Miss Locey retained their positions on the teaching staff for 1900-1. According to the *Ontario Democrat* of February 15, 1902, eleven students completed the eight grade course. Two others of the class were unable to complete the course because of illness.

In 1902 the taxpayers of District No. 8, by an almost unanimous vote, authorized the issuance of \$6,000 in school bonds for the purpose of doubling the capacity of the four-room brick school house by the addition of four more rooms. The four additional rooms became known as the new wing. The new wing joined the old wing on the east side and the front entrance was changed from the east to the south side of the structure between the two wings.

The first ninth grade class of the Ontario school, numbering ten students, eight girls and two boys were: Miss Grace Brown, Miss Luella Shaver, Miss Bessie Pogue, Miss Ethel Clement, Miss Elizabeth Butler, Miss Mable Mink, Miss Nellie Purcell, Miss Winnie Purcell, Chester Lackey and Earl Oliver.

The ninth grade was the highest grade taught in the Ontario schools until Professor E. B. Conklin assumed charge as principal in 1905, when the tenth grade was added. A grade was added each year thereafter until the four-year high school course was completed in 1907. That year Chester T. Lackey completed the full four-year course in three years to become the first student to graduate from the Ontario high school.

When the high school building was completed in 1912 Mr. Conklin assumed charge as superintendent with Jesse J. Beatty as principal of the grade schools. With the completion of the brick school east of the railroad track the next year, 1913, Mrs. Retta Payne was placed in charge of the eastside school. Upon the retirement of Mrs. Payne in 1919, Mrs. Stella Conklin became principal of the eastside school.

Mr. Conklin distinguished himself in many ways by doing much work to improve and advance the Ontario school system. He organized the first four-year high school course; introduced high school athletics, and the Cadet System for military training.

Among members of the teaching staff—not already mentioned—that were long associated together in the Ontario schools at the time and after Professor Conklin was head of that educational institution were Misses Nellie and May Platt, sisters. Others were Miss Catherine Conway and the Misses Anna and Margaret McGivern; the last two named are sisters of Mrs. Kathryn Claypool, present Malheur county superintendent of schools. A younger sister, Miss Emma McGivern, who graduated from the Ontario high school, later taught in the grade school. Another graduate of the city high school, Miss Ione Luehrs, daughter of the late O. G. Luehrs, was engaged to teach in the grade schools.

In 1920 Will J. Roberts, now deceased, was named principal of the Conklin school and remained in that capacity a number of terms until ill health forced his retirement. Mrs. May Roberts, also a teacher, remained a member of the faculty for some years after her husband's retirement. Mrs. Gertrude Moore, wife of the veterinarian, Dr. A. G. Moore, was another of the pioneer teachers who was engaged by the school board, and has remained a member of the Ontario school faculty for a number of terms.

E. G. Bailey, a long time friend and associate in school activities with E. B. Conklin in Umatilla county, succeeded Mr. Conklin as superintendent of the Ontario schools. After filling the position two terms, in 1914-15, Mr. Bailey was succeeded by Harl Douglas, who occupied the position for the next three terms, from 1916 to 1918. In 1919 Mr. Douglas was succeeded by H. P. Lewis, who after one term was replaced by J. M. McDonald. Mr. McDonald was superintendent for the next four years. His successor was Charles S. Miller who filled the position four years. During the years preceding 1921 a number of new branches of studies were added to the courses in the high school, including latin, science, teacher training, domestic science and arts, typewriting and shorthand, bookkeeping, commercial law, vocational agriculture, physical education, manual training, ROTC, glee club, orchestra and band. At that time the Ontario High School ROTC was the only unit in the state outside of Portland. In 1921 a gymnasium was built with a seating capacity of 1,200.

The Smith-Hughs Act, establishing vocational training in high schools was passed by Congress in 1917. Three years later, 1920, this course of study was authorized to be taught in Ontario by the school board. The members of the board at that time were Dr. W. J. Weese, Judge W. W. Wood and L. Adam. M. D. Thomas, was the first agricultural instructor. Beginning with 1921, Mr. Thomas became instructor of animal husbandry, farm management and farm crops. He was succeeded by O. I. Paulson, who remained in charge of the department until 1927 when he was succeeded by W. C. Higgins, who in turn was succeeded by O. D. Dearborn in 1931.

Mr. Dearborn, son of the pioneers Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Dearborn, is a graduate of the Ontario high school and completed his course in agriculture under Mr. Thomas and Mr. Paulson before going to state college. The work under the supervision of Mr. Dearborn improved and expanded with the gradual increase of enrollment of students. The first chapter of Future Farmers of America was organized in 1930, the last year Mr. Higgins was in charge, and was the only chapter in the county until 1939 when a second chapter was installed in the Nyssa high school. The third chapter in the county was organized the following year in the Adrain high school.

Professor James L. Turnbull, who was engaged as principal of the Conklin grade school in 1922, rose to superintendent of the Ontario schools in 1928. Professor Turnbull is the nephew of the late Thomas Turnbull, one of the most prominent of the early-day stockmen of the county. For the next fourteen years, following his promotion to superintendent, James L. Turnbull ably performed his duties, occupying the position more than twice as long as any of the other superintendents of the Ontario schools. During his incumbency there were many marked improvements, including the present magnificent Conklin grade school building in 1939. Also the new campus, including F. F. A. laboratory, gymnasium and athletic field.

By 1936 the Ontario schools had an enrollment of over 1,000, making District No. 8 a first-class district. Some of the students are brought in by nine school busses from a radius of eighteen miles. In 1940 the enrollment had increased to 1,117, of which 332 were enrolled in the senior high school.

In 1942 James L. Turnbull resigned as superintendent of schools to enter the armed forces. He was succeeded as superintendent by Arthur Kiesz, who filled the position for the next two terms until Mr. Turnbull returned at the close of the war. Mr. Kiesz was a member of the Ontario school staff for fifteen years—the first four years in the grade school—and was named principal of the junior high school when it was established. Later he was a teacher in the senior high school, for four years of which he was principal for two years.

In 1945, Mr. Turnbull resigned as superintendent to accept the management of the Ontario Associated Industries, Inc. Iver W. Masterson as-

sumed the superintendency of the Ontario schools for the 1945-6 term. The faculty included forty teachers; thirteen in the senior high school; eight in the junior high school; fifteen in the Conklin grade school, and four in the Lindbergh eastside school. Following was the personnel of the faculty:

Senior High: Wilfred A. Thomas, principal; Catherine Conway, James Jones, Mrs. Alice Richards, John T. Comisky, Robert Howard, Mrs. Ruth Robertson, Eloise Lowery, Gail B. Harris, Charles K. Fulton, Cecelia Blair, Ethlyn E. Root, Mrs. Helen Fulton.

Junior High: Charles H. Christenson, principal; Mae Platt, Mrs. Beth Christenson, Ruth Cox, Helen Johnson, Elsie Herold, Mrs. Opal McConnell, Mrs. Helen Freitag.

Conklin School: Mrs. May Roberts, principal; Mrs. Vera Weaver, Flossie Williams, Mrs. Nannie Oakes, Hope Mayfield, Callie B. Shelton, Mrs. Muriel McCutcheon, Goldie Miller, Emma Frasier, Mrs. Virginia Lackey, Mrs. Vera Anderson, Mrs. Phyllis Nesbit, Mrs. Dora Shaver, Mrs. Stewart Manville.

Lindbergh School: Mrs. Gertrude Moore, principal; Mrs. Fred Kuhnly, Mrs. Clara Hauser, Mrs. June Hague.

It will be noted that some of the pioneer school teachers were still members of the faculty in 1948. Professor Arthur Kiesz, who was superintendent for two terms, from 1942 to 1944, and a veteran of fifteen years as a teacher in the Ontario schools, was again engaged as superintendent for the 1946-7 term, and has since continued in that capacity.

The enrollment of the Ontario school system on the second day of the school year of 1944, according to records, placed the total attendance as 1,007. A year later, on the second day of the opening of the 1946 session, the total enrollment was 1,053, a gain of 46 over the preceeding year.

During a period of some sixty-three years, following the close of the first three-month subscription school in the autumn of 1883 to the end of the school year of 1945-6 the enrollment in the Ontario public school had increased to 1,100. Forty-two instructors were employed as compared to only one teacher in 1883.

The first public school in Vale District No. 15 opened in the fall of 1887 with Professor A. B. McPherson as the first pedagogue. The school was opened in a small wooden building, that had been built for a law office. The schoolmaster, Professor McPherson, helped build the school house.

The pupils attending the first Vale school was about the number that attended the first school in Ontario. Among the first Vale pupils was John Norwood, the pioneer Jamieson farmer. Miss Kate Jones (Mrs. J. F. Weaver) deceased, was another of the pupils; as was Miss Lulu Wells, daughter of D. C. Wells; and Mrs. Eucebia McPherson Beam, daughter of the schoolmaster. Mrs. Beam has for many years resided at Ironside. Mrs.

Lulu Wells Kessler resides in Vale. The enrollment of the first Vale school is unavailable. Professor Applewhite succeeded Professor McPherson.

For many years Professor O. H. Byland was principal of the Vale school with Mrs. Byland his assistant. B. W. Mulkey was also a teacher in the school before becoming county clerk. By that time a four-room two-story elementary grade school was built in 1911 at a cost of \$27,000. This building housed the high school until the Union High School No. 3, comprising Vale, Grove, Jamieson, Willow Creek, Sand Hollow, Brogan, Ironside, White Settlement and Bully Creek in 1936, with 206 students in attendance.

The modern two-story stone high school is very conveniently apportioned. The building contains four class rooms, the superintendent's office and a library on the first floor. On the second floor are two class rooms, a large auditorium with a seating capacity for 250 people, and a teacher's room. Two class rooms, play-room and lavatories are in the basement. Sanitary drinking fountains are on all floors of the building.

The school census of 1911 gave the number of school children in the Vale district as 257. The first high school year was 1912, with the following seven teachers employed: Professor G. R. Ruring, principal; Miss Mabel Judd, high school; Miss Helen Gleason, seventh and eighth grades; Miss Laura Inman, fifth and sixth; Miss Nettie Ricker, third and fourth; Miss Mable Rigley, second; Miss Elma Raymond, primary department.

Professor John C. Conway is retained as principal of the Vale Union High School for the 1947-8 term; Bessie Hester is vice-principal. Arthur W. Smith is principal of the elementary schools. Other members of the Union High School faculty are Fay Swan, Francis J. Cristy, T. C. Farris, Ora Anderson, Jean Oschanic, Opal McConnell, Gerald Cammann, Betty Joe Waters, E. G. Axtel, Gene Chester, Betty Lou Bales, Archie G. Anderson, with Rae Saunders secretary. The 1948 attendance was 340, of which about two-thirds came from the adjoining rural districts. From the Vale Senior High School 64 graduated the same year.

Teachers in the 1947-8 elementary schools were Myrtle Speas, Ulla Prouty, Neoda Crummitt; Elizabeth J. Hendricks, Hazel Hope, H. K. Joyce, Julia Olson, Launa Wood, Marvin Wiggins, Francis Christy. Mrs. E. M. Crail, for many years a teacher in the Vale schools, has retired.

The frame grade school building at Nyssa housed the High School pupils until 1938 when the Nyssa Union High School was inaugurated, embracing Nyssa 26C, Arcadia District 36 and Oregon Trail District 26. Four new rooms have been added to the old Nyssa school building with modern equipment, including florescent lights, lockers, book cases and tile floors. The grade school building, with new wings added, now contains 22 rooms.

The Arcadia school house and the old Oregon Trail school, the latter idle for two years, is now used for elementary school work. Superintendent Henry C. Hartley has a staff of 41 teachers, 22 of whom taught the preceding year. Fifty-four seniors graduated May 15, 1947.

Malheur county has four Union high schools; Jordan Valley, Union No. 1; Harper, Union No. 2; Vale Union No. 3, and Adrain Union No. 4. Adrain Union High includes the districts of Wade, Lower Bend, Owyhee and Kingman Kolony.

In 1933, the year County Superintendent of Schools, Kathryn Claypool assumed office, the school census of Malheur county was 3,665. Within the next twelve years the school population almost doubled, there being 6,274 children of school age in the county in 1946.

CHAPTER 29

MALHEUR COUNTY NEWSPAPERS

*For joy or for sorrow, for weal or for woe,
'Tis the laws of our being—we reap what we sow,
We may try to avoid them, may do as we will;
But our acts, like our shadows, will follow us still.*
—Anonymous.

Of the old-time hand-printers and newspaper men who diligently strove “to do their bit” in helping to develop Malheur county in the early days, it can be said that none of them attained very great success or fame, with the possible exception of W. J. Cuddy. A few can be called absolute failures. But this fault—as in all walks of life—in most cases were their own, and they reaped what they sowed. But to the credit of most of them, as a tribute to their memory—as nearly all of them are now deceased—they did their very best in an undeveloped field. For at that time in this now beautiful and prosperous garden spot their lot was not a bed of roses.

The *Atlas*, the first newspaper published in the county, was established in Ontario in October, 1887. The paper was launched by some of the first businessmen of the town. The first editor of the *Atlas* was Sidney D. Ross, a transient printer, who came here from Mountain Home, Idaho. The printing office was in one of the Scott buildings. Only a few editions were pub-

lished when the editor closed up the shop and took his departure one night, without making any announcement, for parts unknown.

The main purpose in establishing the first newspaper in the county was to support Ontario in the pending contest for the county seat. Malheur County had been created in February, 1887, with Vale named as the temporary county seat. The permanent seat of county government was to be decided by the voters of the county and Ontario became an aspirant for county seat honors. In the spring of 1888 the paper was revived by W. J. Cuddy, who came from Caldwell to take over the editorship and management. The plant was moved to a small building that adjoined the Rutherford Hotel on the south. The Cuddy family dwelt in the rear of the printing office. Mrs. Cuddy sometimes assisted her husband as typesetter and printer. The *Atlas* was printed on an old army hand-press and was first a five-column four-page paper and later increased to six columns.

In the June election of 1888 Ontario was eliminated as a county seat contender. A short time thereafter Mr. Cuddy moved his paper to Vale and changed the name to *The New Atlas*. Some time later Mr. Cuddy discontinued the publication and in 1900 moved with his wife and four small daughters to Portland to accept a position on the *Oregonian*. For the next thirty-five years he was employed as ad compositor, linotype operator, proof-reader and editorial writer and was later editor of the *Weekly Oregonian*. Mr. Cuddy died in Portland in 1925 at the age of 71 years.

The second paper published in the county, the *Malheur Gazette*, was established in Vale by S. H. Shepherd as a democratic organ in 1888. A few years later he sold the plant to a company of Vale businessmen who organized the Gazette Publishing Company, Hope Bros. being the principal owners. They changed the political complexion of the *Gazette* from democratic to republican. All early-day papers of the county were aligned with some political party. The *Atlas* had espoused the republican cause.

Among the editors who succeeded Mr. Shepherd was John E. Roberts, who came with his family from Harney county where he had been engaged in the newspaper business in both Harney City and Burns. His father had worked in the newspaper field in St. Louis, Missouri, before coming west to become one of the pioneer publishers in Harney county. In politics he became a democratic leader in that county and was elected county treasurer. Miss Ida Roberts, a school teacher, at times assisted her brother, J. E. Roberts as printer and reporter on the *Malheur Gazette*, and was the first woman employed on that paper. S. H. Shepherd, founder of the *Malheur Gazette*, came from a family of Iowa newspaper publishers and before coming to Vale was for a time with his brother publishing the *Bedrock Democrat*, of Baker City. The *Bedrock Democrat* was the first newspaper published in this part of the state, having been established in 1870.

William Plughoff, who came from Idaho, succeeded J. E. Roberts as editor of the *Malheur Gazette*. Miss Velera McPherson, who later married Plughoff, and her sister Veronica, worked as printers on the *Gazette* at the time Mr. Plughoff was editor. "Dad" Esterbrook, who came from Nampa, succeeded Plughoff as editor of the *Gazette*. Later J. W. McCulloch became editor. He later became district attorney of the ninth judicial district. He is now a resident of Portland and has served as deputy United States attorney for Oregon. Shepherd, Roberts and Plughoff are all deceased. Plughoff's widow, Mrs. Velera Plughoff, resides in Portland.

Lionel R. Johnson, a brother of John E. Johnson the first county surveyor, was another of the editors of the *Gazette*. L. R. Johnson, a veteran of the Spanish-American war, some years later was a columnist on a Los Angeles daily.

The third Malheur county newspaper and the second paper published in Ontario was *The News*, launched by W. E. Bowen, who came from Weiser. The *Ontario News* made its initial bow to the public in November, 1892, from what later became the first Boyer store building in the city. The building when first built had housed the first drug store in the town and later was occupied as a saloon. Mr. Bowen, who had been a mining engineer, for a short time worked on the *Weiser Signal*, the pioneer newspaper of that city, just before coming to Ontario. Miss Lizzie Craig worked for a short time setting type on *The News*. She was a daughter of J. R. Craig and had come with her parents from Malheur City about the time Bowen came from Weiser. Her father was a pioneer of the Eldorado mining district in the early days.

It was on the *Ontario News*, in the old Boyer building, that I first learned what little I know about the "art preservative." My initiation as "printer's devil" took place at pre-dawn one Saturday morning in the autumn of 1893 following my return with Mr. Bowen and some other bachelors by train from Payette where we had been attending a dance. He had the forms all made up and ready to go to press before leaving for the Payette dance the evening before. At his request I helped him print *The News* on his old army hand-press. Shortly thereafter I went to work as an apprentice typesetter.

In 1895, following the completion and occupation of the four-room brick school building, Mr. Bowen bought the vacated little yellow school house into which he moved his newspaper plant and for the next four years published the *Ontario News* in the middle of the street. In 1896, I bought a part interest in *The News*, but was not a full partner, Mr. Bowen retaining the editorship and management. In November, 1898, Mr. Bowen suspended publication of *The News* and moved the plant to Baker City where he established a weekly paper which he named the *Baker City Record*, with he and myself as publishers. After about three months in Baker I severed

my connection with *The Record* and returned to Ontario the latter part of February, 1899. In the settlement with Mr. Bowen I became the owner of the little yellow Ontario school house. The life of the *Ontario News* was six years almost to the day, from November, 1892, to November, 1898. *The News* espoused the democratic cause for the first four years of its existence and then became the populist organ of the county for awhile and then joined the fusion democratic, populist and silver republican forces in supporting William Jennings Bryan in the free coinage of silver campaign of 1896. For a short time in 1897 I published the paper when Bowen made a trip to the Willamette valley.

After suspension of the publication of the *Baker City Record*, Bowen retired from the newspaper field. The last I heard of him was about two years later when a Portland traveling salesman, that was a fraternal Knights of Pythias brother of both of us, told me that he had met Mr. Bowen in the Willamette valley with his pack headed for the mines in Jackson county.

The fourth paper published in Malheur county, which was all home print, was the *District Silver Advocate*, founded in Vale on January 6, 1897, by Bert Venable, with John E. Roberts as editor. It was published every Wednesday. At that time Mr. Venable was editor and publisher of the *Payette Independent*, the first newspaper published there. Mr. Venable was a silver republican and Mr. Roberts was a democrat. The purpose of the establishment of this paper, as the name implies, was to advocate the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of sixteen to one, and to support W. J. Bryan for president. Bert Venable later transferred his interests to E. R. Murray. W. E. Lees, at that time a Vale attorney, acquired the controlling interest in the *Advocate* and for a time occupied the editorial chair. Venable, Roberts, Murray and Lees are all deceased. For a short time in 1898 the *District Silver Advocate* was issued as a daily, being the first daily paper published in the county, but it soon reverted to a weekly publication. Roberts had resumed the editorship in the fall of 1898. The *Advocate* was printed on a Washington hand press, as was also the *Gazette*, *The Atlas* and *News* were printed on army hand presses. Both the *Gazette* and *News*—four page papers—had two patent inside pages.

In the latter part of February, 1899—about three months after Bowen had suspended publication of the *Ontario News* and moved his plant to Baker City—Roberts moved his paper from Vale to Ontario and shortened the name from *District Silver Advocate* to the *Ontario Advocate*. I had but recently returned from Baker City when Roberts called on me at my home on the hill, just west of the present fair grounds, to rent the school house I had recently acquired in my settlement with Bowen. Roberts moved the *Advocate* plant into the front part of the building and his family into the two rear rooms, which Bowen had occupied for living quarters when pub-

lishing the *News*—having partitioned one of the school rooms into two rooms.

Upon my return to Ontario from Baker City I had decided to retire from newspaper work. About a week after Roberts first called on me to rent the old school house he again called at the ranch and asked me to help him out for a few days in the printing office. From that time on I worked on the *Ontario Advocate* as printer and city reporter until the name of the paper was changed to the *Argus* and remained in the same capacity on the *Argus* for about two years. At the time I was connected with the *News* and *Advocate*, during circuit court sessions, I also served as court bailiff at Vale under Sheriff J. D. Locey, and at the same time reported circuit court news for these two newspapers. Miss Bertha Bowen, my niece, worked on the *Advocate* a short time.

About the time J. E. Roberts moved the *Advocate* from Vale to Ontario the fifth and sixth Malheur county newspapers sprung into existence, one in Vale and the other in Ontario. The fifth paper, the *Malheur County Herald*, was launched at Vale by William Plughoff, who like Roberts had been a former editor of the *Malheur Gazette* in Vale. The sixth paper, the *Ontario Mattock*, made its initial appearance March 14, 1899. The *Mattock* was founded by Gilbert L. King, who placed the name of his son, twenty-two-year-old Edward L. King, at the mast head, but G. L. wrote the editorials. Judge King was inexperienced in newspaper work, knowing nothing about the mechanical department and his son Ed knew less, consequently they had to depend on employed help to get out the paper. The life of the *Mattock* was short. In 1900, about a year after the first issue of the paper, King sold the *Mattock* to Roberts at a financial loss and the *Mattock* was absorbed by the *Advocate*.

The *Mattock* had occupied a frame building just east of the Ontario furniture store that had been the office of the J. T. Clement lumber yard, and afterward occupied by the building contractors, Babcock & Purcell, and later by Purcell & Dearborn. At the time G. L. King started the publication of the *Mattock* he bought a large second-hand cylinder hand press from Jed Boyekin, of Boise, on which that pioneer newspaper man had printed the *Idaho World*, one of the first papers published in Idaho. Boyekin had retired from the newspaper field and the *Idaho World* had ceased publication. When J. E. Roberts acquired the *Ontario Mattock* from King he moved the *Advocate* to the building from which the *Mattock* had been published in order to utilize the large cylinder hand press.

The cylinder press was so bulky that it was much easier to move the entire *Advocate* plant than it was to move the big press. From that time on I turned the crank of the cylinder press on publication days in place

of handling the handle-bar of the old Washington press. In cold weather the hand press was "a man killer," and it required two men to turn the crank until the press was warmed up. But it saved much time and labor on printing day and turned out a better printed paper than the old Washington press.

At the time Roberts moved the *Advocate* to the *Mattock* office he moved his family into the rear rooms of the same long building. After Roberts vacated the frame school house I sold the building to J. S. Millikin who moved it to the southwest part of town and converted it into a dwelling. Mr. Millikin, at that time county surveyor, moved his family from the lower Owyhee to Ontario. J. S. Millikin, now deceased, was the father of S. J. Millikin, present assistant postmaster of Ontario.

Don Carlos Boyd, a native of Baker City, who had previously been associated with a number of Oregon newspapers, purchased the *Advocate* from J. E. Roberts, November 28, 1900. Boyd changed the name of the *Ontario Advocate* to the *Ontario Argus* and also transformed the political complexion of the journal from democrat to republican. I remained with the paper as compositor and reporter. Mark Boyd, a brother of D. C. Boyd, who for a brief time had been in charge of the *Mattock* for G. L. King, returned from Baker and worked for a brief spell for his brother on the *Argus*. A year or two after D. C. Boyd started the publication of the *Argus* he married Mrs. Edna Leach, daughter of ex-Judge J. T. Clement. Not long thereafter Judge Clement became a partner of his son-in-law in publishing the *Argus*. Soon the *Argus* plant was moved to a small frame building, owned by Judge Clement, that stood on the west side of Oregon street in the block north of where the Moore Hotel was later built. For a brief time in 1904 the *Argus* appeared as a daily paper but soon reverted back to a weekly.

About a month after J. E. Roberts sold the *Ontario Advocate*, in December, 1900, he started a paper at Westfall that he named the *Westfall Independent*, which survived only a few months. Eugene A. Heath, who had been a newspaper publisher in Harney county, came into possession of the *Independent* plant in 1901 and started a new paper which he named *Our Western Ways*. A year or two later Heath closed his shop and retired.

E. A. Heath was one of the most sarcastic newspaper writers to appear in Eastern Oregon. While in Harney county he became involved in a bitter wordy war with another publisher in which "hard names" were called. He was indicted by a Federal grand jury and taken to Portland for trial. After his acquittal he gave an account of the trial telling of "the injustice that had been imposed on him" and closed his sad story by remarking: "and all the time I was just as innocent as a road agent."

In March, 1901, Almer G. King, at that time county clerk, and Paul Delaney acquired the *Malheur County Herald*, of Vale, from William Plug-

hoff and changed the name of the paper to the *Malheur County Democrat* and continued its publication as a democratic organ with A. G. King, editor, and Delaney in charge of the mechanical department. King later became full owner and in February, 1902, moved the plant to Ontario and shortened the name to the *Ontario Democrat*, with B. W. Rice occupying the editorial chair. Mr. Rice had but recently retired as Oregon Short Line railroad station agent at Ontario. Miss Minnie Stacey, a daughter of the well-known pioneer, S. P. Stacey of the Vale vicinity, was a compositor on the paper, both at Vale and Ontario. She was married to Dr. Smith, of Drewsey a few years later. They now reside in Alaska.

About three months after the *Democrat* was moved from Vale to Ontario—to be exact—on May 19, 1902, Judge Will R. King became the owner and editor with William Plughoff in charge of the mechanical department.

Not long after Will R. King became owner and editor of the *Ontario Democrat*, I severed my connection with the *Ontario Argus* to replace William Plughoff in the mechanical department and as reporter. Plughoff and I practically traded jobs, as Plughoff soon assumed the same position on the *Argus*. In 1903, Judge King sold the *Democrat* to me. At various times I had been connected with the *News*, *Advocate*, *Argus* and *Democrat* in the mechanical departments and as a reporter.

Will R. King's connection with the *Ontario Democrat* as owner and editor for about a year was his first and only venture in the newspaper field. Like the other three Kings—who were not relatives of his—Judge G. L. King, his son Edward L. King and Almer G. King, he was not what was known at that time as a practical newspaper man—one who could step in and help out in the mechanical work or any branch of the department. The editor, in order to make a success of the enterprise, had to be more than a "pencil pusher" when it came to making up a paper and getting it printed. None of the Kings were capable of doing the typesetting and other mechanical work, which largely accounted for their failures in the newspaper field. All of them retired as publishers after an effort lasting only about a year or less. Neither of the four Kings should be placed in the same category with the first pioneer publishers, W. J. Cuddy, S. H. Shepherd, J. E. Robert, William Plughoff, "Dad" Esterbrook, D. C. Boyd, M. E. Bain, or even myself, as self-reliant when it comes to laboring in the newspaper world.

I had worked about four years with the *Ontario News*, nearly three years with the *Ontario Advocate*, over two years with the *Ontario Argus* and about a year with the *Ontario Democrat*—a total of about ten years—before I became owner and editor of the *Democrat*. J. P. Kidd, who had been job printer for both Roberts and Boyd on the *Advocate* and *Argus* and later conducted a job office of his own, was employed by me in the same capacity. After I sold the *Democrat* he re-opened his own job office.

During the seven years I was publisher of the *Democrat* the following lady compositors worked in succession in the following order on the journal: Miss Grace Brown, who later married Henry Moody; Miss Nell Purcell, widow of the late Frank Morfitt; Miss Winnie Purcell, now Mrs. James F. Divin; Miss Lizzie Butler, now Mrs. H. C. Farmer; Miss Maude E. New, now Mrs. Will Butler. The last four are still residing in the vicinity of Ontario. My nephew, Edgar R. Draper also worked as a printer for me on the *Democrat* and later for the Dodges on the *Optomist* to earn his tuition at the University of Washington at Seattle. He graduated from the University with high honors and for the past number of years has been assistant dean at Washington University. He was born on the Fruitland bench, near the banks of the Payette river, where his father had located on a homestead. When he was young the parents moved to the Ontario-Payette ferry house on the Oregon side of Snake river, at the time his father took over the operation of the ferry. Edgar lived in Ontario and immediate vicinity, where he attended school until his graduation from high school, and went to Seattle to attend the Washington University.

In 1905, Emison Bros. established the first paper at Nyssa, the *News*, with O. O. Davis as editor. About a year later, in 1906, Francis Bros. took over the plant and changed the name from the *News* to the *Sun*, as a non-partisan sheet. The third Nyssa paper, the *Gate City Journal*, which succeeded the *Sun*, was launched in 1910. Later Win S. Brown acquired the paper and continued as editor and publisher for the next ten years.

About 1905, Gus E. Hurley founded the *Oreana*, a paper with republican leanings at Vale. About two years later the *Malheur Gazette*, the first paper published in Vale and the second published in the county, suspended publication. The *Malheur Enterprise*, one of the three newsy newspapers still published in Malheur county, made its first appearance at the county seat town November 20, 1909. The first editor was John J. McGrath, with B. M. Stone as manager. Major L. H. French, the promoter, is credited with having financed the launching of the *Enterprise*. French, Stone and McGrath all came to Vale from Alaska that year, following the decline of the gold excitement in "the far frozen north." The *Oreana*, which had occupied the W. S. Glenn frame building on the lower floor, suspended publication soon after the launching of the *Malheur Enterprise*. The *Enterprise* was also quartered for a time in the lower part of the Glenn building. In November, 1912, John Rigby, another of the Alaskans, succeeded Stone as publisher of the *Enterprise*.

In 1908, I sold the *Ontario Democrat* to C. C. Dodge and Miss Estelle Riddle, who had but recently arrived from Minneapolis, Kansas. They changed the name to the *Ontario Optimist* and the policy of the paper from democratic to independent, with Miss Riddle as editor and Mr. Dodge as

manager. The fathers of both Dodge and Miss Riddle had long been newspaper publishers in neighboring Kansas towns and these two late arrivals from "the sunflower state" had practically been raised in printing offices. Miss Riddle was the first woman editor in Malheur county. Mr. Dodge and Miss Riddle were married not long after they started the publication of the *Optimist*.

J. E. Roberts, who had sold the *Ontario Advocate* in November, 1900, for a short time published the *Westfall Independent*, then went to Boise where he worked as a printer on the *Capital News*. Later he assumed the editorship of a labor weekly paper at the Idaho capital and then went to Caldwell to become editor of the *Caldwell News*. He went from there to Nyssa in 1911 and took over the *Gate City Journal* about a year after that paper was launched. In 1912, Roberts organized the Malheur Printing Company and purchased the *Ontario Optimist* from Mr. and Mrs. Dodge. Mr. Roberts gave the paper back its original name—the *Ontario Democrat*—and also put it back in the democratic ranks to support Champ Clark, of Missouri, for the democratic nomination for president of the United States.

A year or so later Roberts was indicted by a county grand jury on the charge of embezzling funds of the company. The mortgage on the *Democrat* was foreclosed by W. E. Lees before the indictment of Roberts. This was a mortgage that had been given to me by the Dodges at the time they bought the *Democrat* from me. I had later sold the mortgage to Lees. The paper went into the hands of a receiver with me being appointed to the receivership and to take over the publication. Roberts was convicted on the embezzlement charge and parolled by the court.

I bought back the paper at sheriff's sale, cleared it of all indebtedness, even paying some of Roberts' private bills that the receiver was under no obligations to pay, as well as an \$800 note Roberts had given Dodge. This note had been outlawed when the business went into the hands of a receiver and I was in no way obligated to pay it. Roberts' debts to merchants were settled to protect the integrity of the *Democrat* with the agreement that I was to be reimbursed should the merchants later be able to collect the amounts due them from Roberts. Only one of the merchants appears to have been able to collect from Roberts. This was E. A. Fraser, who turned the amount he collected over to me.

After Roberts was parolled he took over the editorship of the *Malheur Enterprise* from John Rigby. Roberts died from a heart attack while on a hunting trip.

After publishing the *Democrat* for about a year I again sold the paper to A. F. Riddle and C. C. Dodge. Riddle, a brother of Mrs. Dodge and a former Kansas newspaper man, took over the editorship and Dodge assumed the management.

After the death of J. T. Clement, William Plughoff acquired the *Argus*

from D. C. Boyd and published the paper for the next two years. In 1909, M. E. Bain purchased the *Argus* and assumed editorship and management. W. C. Marsh leased the paper in 1913 and conducted it for a brief period, after which Mr. Bain again assumed charge. In 1916, George K. Aiken purchased the *Argus* from M. E. Bain and for the next twenty-eight years was owner, editor and publisher. Aiken retired from the newspaper field in 1944, when he moved to Salem to assume the position of budget director.

About 1908, M. N. Fegtley founded the *Jordan Valley Express* in that town which he published for the next eight years before entering the Vale land office as receiver.

When the railroad penetrated the Malheur canyon and the town of Juntura was founded, P. J. Gallagher and M. A. Byrd established the *Juntura Times* in 1913, with Gallagher as editor and Byrd as manager. In 1915, when Mr. Gallagher moved to Ontario, the *Times* was sold to George Grow who conducted the paper the next two years after which publication was suspended.

In 1918, A. F. Riddle, at the time editor of the *Ontario Democrat*, joined the armed forces in World War I. The *Democrat* was sold to George K. Aiken and absorbed by the *Ontario Argus*. Following the close of the war, Mr. Riddle went to Boise to accept a position on the *Evening Capital News* as reporter and desk man. Later he joined the editorial staff of the *Idaho Statesman*. He was a commentator and news broadcaster over KIDO radio station in Boise from September, 1934, to August, 1945. Since February, 1944, he has filled the position of Service Officer of the Veterans Welfare Commission of the State of Idaho. At Seattle, Washington, on August 16, 1920, Arthur F. Riddle was married to Miss Olive Shaw of Ludington, Michigan. They are the parents of three children, Arthur S. Riddle, a veteran of World War II; Roslyn, wife of W. R. Brewer; and Girard M. Riddle.

After retiring from the newspaper business, Clyde C. Dodge homesteaded a place on Dead Ox flat. Soon after he returned to Ontario and engaged in commercial printing until 1945 when he leased his printing equipment to Firmin Scholes. On October 30, 1947, at the age of 68, Mr. Dodge died in his sleep at Holy Rosary hospital, where he had been taken following a heart attack. He and his wife had been divorced for some time. She resides in Seattle.

In 1917, George E. Currey, a well-known Oregon printer and newspaper editor, bought the *Malheur Enterprise* from John Rigby. Rigby and his wife went to Long Beach, California, where he died a few years later. In 1930, Currey traded the *Vale Enterprise* to Bruce Dennis for the *Baker City Herald*. Dennis—at the time editor and publisher of *La Grande Observer*—put William Seeman, who had been in the employ of Currey, in charge of the *Enterprise*. In 1923, the paper was sold to Lloyd Richie,

formerly of the *Stanfield Standard*. In September of the same year Charles K. Crandall, son of Charles M. Crandall, a prominent Vale attorney, obtained a controlling interest and became the *Enterprise* editor.

In February, 1924, Win S. Brown, a life-long Oregon printer and journalist, who had learned the printer's art in Boise, acquired the Crandall interests in the *Vale Enterprise*. Mr. Brown, who had been publisher of the *Gate City Journal* since 1912, moved his family from Nyssa to Vale, leaving his brother, H. F. Brown, in charge of the Nyssa paper. Mrs. Dottie Crummett Edwards, who for some time had been employed on the *Enterprise*, was placed in the editorial chair by Win Brown, while he looked after the management of both the Vale and Nyssa journals. In 1925, Mrs. Edwards relinquished the *Enterprise* editorial chair to accept a position on the *Ontario Argus*. ~~Mr. Aiken~~ ~~Mr. Aiken~~ succeeded Mrs. Edwards on the *Enterprise*, where she remained until April, 1931, following the sale of the Vale newspaper to Arthur H. Bone, which transaction took place in November, 1930.

After selling the *Enterprise*, Win S. Brown returned to Nyssa, where his unexpected death occurred suddenly at 8 o'clock on the evening of Thursday, April 21, 1932, as he sat reading a copy of his paper. Following his death his daughter, Mrs. Winifred Thomas and her husband, Louis P. Thomas, came from Oakland, California, and took over the publication of the *Gate City Journal*. Berwin Burke, formerly of the *Payette Independent*, leased the *Journal* and published the paper for a time. Later Louis B. Thomas resumed charge of the publication.

The present publisher and editor of the *Gate City Journal* is Klass V. Powell. Mr. Powell entered newspaper work in 1924 as circulation manager of the *Morning Democrat* in Baker, and two years thereafter became night editor, a position that he held until 1929, when the *Morning Democrat* was purchased by Lucien Arant and Bernard Mainwaring, publishers of the *Baker Herald*. Following the purchase of the *Democrat* from Will H. Evans and I. B. Bowen, Sr., the two papers were consolidated and Mr. Powell became city editor of the *Democrat-Herald*. Klass Powell remained with the *Democrat-Herald* in various capacities until November, 1941, when he purchased the *Gate City Journal* from Mr. and Mrs. Louis P. Thomas.

George K. Aiken, who purchased the *Ontario Argus* in 1916 and published that journal for the next twenty-eight years, established a record of having conducted a newspaper the longest in Malheur county. Arthur H. Bone, who became owner and publisher of the *Malheur Enterprise* of Vale in 1930 and continued in that position for over fifteen years, ranks second. Prior to the appearance of Aiken and Bone in the newspaper field in the county I held the longest service among the pioneer printers and publishers in the county.

M. E. Bain, now about 87 years of age, former owner and editor of the *Argus*, who still resides in Ontario from the time he located here in

1909, has the distinction of being the oldest newspaper editor and publisher still residing in the county. Mr. Bain, a native of Canada, was reared in Louisville, Kentucky. After a number of years the family returned to Canada and Bain first engaged in newspaper work for two years on the *Toronto Evening Telegram*. Returning to the states he worked on the *Detroit Free Press*, *Cleveland Leader*, *Pittsburgh Dispatch* and from there to New York and was employed on Joseph Pulitzer *World* and Charles Dana's *Sun*. From New York to San Francisco he worked on a number of daily newspapers, in various cities, including Cheyenne, Wyoming; Miles City, Billings, Helena, Butte, Montana. Turning eastward he worked at his trade in San Diego, Santa Fe, Leadville, Denver, Omaha and Sioux City. Then coming northwest to Portland, he worked on the *Oregonian*, then in Seattle and Tacoma. He published three newspapers in Western Oregon before purchasing the *Argus*. After retiring from his profession in 1916 Bain was a deputy county assessor, under Assessor M. R. Morton and later city recorder of Ontario.

G. K. Aiken, a graduate of Macalester College, at St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1908, first entered the newspaper field as a reporter in that city before coming west to Puget Sound where he was employed as a reporter on the *Tacoma Ledger*. While there he was married to Miss Lulu Piper, a Macalester classmate. After their marriage he became publisher of a paper at Roslyn, Washington. He came from there to Ontario in 1916 to publish the *Argus*. The Aikens are the parents of three children, a son and two daughters. Besides serving as mayor of Ontario, Aiken was chosen a member of the state game commission. When he was appointed state budget director Mr. Aiken moved with his family to Salem.

The latest paper to make its appearance in the county is the *Eastern Oregon Observer*, established by Elmo E. Smith, in Ontario in 1936. Prior to that time Smith had been engaged as business manager for the *Argus*. Bill Robinson, formerly of Newberg, became associated with the *Observer* as news editor. In 1943, when both Smith and Robinson enlisted in the armed services in World War II, Orville Thomson took over the editorship and Mrs. Thompson became business manager of the *Observer* and ably conducted the paper for the next two and a half years. After their discharge from the navy and army, respectively, Smith and Robinson resumed their former positions on the *Observer*. Elmo E. Smith, who at the time of his enlistment as a lieutenant in the navy was mayor of Ontario, was again elected mayor in 1946.

When Aiken went to Salem, Julian M. Field, who for more than two decades had been connected with the mechanical department of the *Argus* as well as linotype operator, and also a columnist, took over the editorial management. Before coming to the *Argus* Mr. Field had worked for the Dodges on the *Ontario Optimist*. Field had been connected with the *Argus*

for more than twenty-six years when he resigned in December, 1946, after establishing a record of having labored in the newspaper field in Malheur county longer than anyone else. He still publishes *The Sundial* magazine, which he established in Payette some years ago, where he makes his home.

On November 30, 1944, announcement was made in the *Argus* of the sale of the paper by George K. Aiken to Ralph C. Curtis, formerly managing editor of the *Oregon Statesman* at Salem and later editor of the *St. Helen's Sentinel*. Curtis took charge of the *Argus* on December 2, 1944.

In January, 1945, Arthur H. Bone, for years owner and publisher of the *Malheur Enterprise* at Vale, was selected by the Oregon-Idaho Division of the Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union of America as publisher and editor of their official organ, the *Oregon Farmer Union*, published at Salem. When Mr. Bone went to Salem to take charge of that publication, Mrs. Dorothy C. Harris, long connected with the *Enterprise*, assumed the editorial management of that journal with Arlie C. Hoffman continuing as foreman.

After continuous publication of the *Malheur Enterprise* for fifteen years and three months, Arthur H. Bone, in January, 1946, sold the paper to Robert V. Thurston, who for some time had been connected with the *Payette Independent*. In February, Mr. Thurston took over the publication of the *Enterprise*. Mrs. Dorothy C. Harris went to Willamina, where she and Mr. Harris purchased the *Willamina Times*.

During the time Arthur H. Bone was publisher of the *Malheur Enterprise*—the longest the paper had been under one management—the *Enterprise* was three times awarded the Hal E. Hoss cup for the best weekly newspaper of its class published in Oregon. Mr. Bone is a graduate of Columbia University and also the law school of the University of Denver. The three awards in three different years to the *Enterprise* is a glowing tribute to his ability as a newspaper editor.

The best known and most distinguished woman editor and columnist to graduate from the newspaper field in Malheur county is Mrs. Dottie Crumett Edwards. She worked on the *Vale Enterprise*, the *Ontario Argus* and *Eastern Oregon Observer* in the above order. Mrs. Edwards was the first woman to conduct a column in the county, which made its initial appearance in the *Argus* January 1, 1931. In 1937, Mrs. Edwards went to Kansas City, Missouri, to become editor of a Catholic magazine of national circulation which position she occupied for ten years. She returned in 1947 and still devotes some of her time to feature writing and reporting.

In 1934, Mrs. Lulu Piper Aiken, wife of Editor Aiken, opened a poet's corner in the *Argus* under the caption, "*The Old and the New.*" Mrs. Aiken a poet in her own right, published poems of young aspiring Oregon poets.

She was also society editor of the *Argus* for some time. Since 1938, Mrs. W. H. Brooke, wife of the prominent pioneer attorney, has been the *Argus* society editor.

In 1940, Mrs. Viola Mitchell, at the time society editor of the *Eastern Oregon Observer*, was awarded the Theta Sigma Phi cup for producing the best women's page in any weekly Oregon newspaper of that year.

As the result of various newspaper transaction in Malheur county the *Ontario Argus*, as successor to the *District Silver Advocate*—the initial number of which appeared in Vale on January 6, 1897—is now the oldest newspaper published in the county. The name of the *Advocate* was changed to the *Argus* on November 28, 1900; thus the *Argus* celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on January 6, 1947. Under its present name the *Argus* will not be fifty years old until November 28, 1950.

The *Gate City Journal* as successor to the *Nyssa News and Sun*, is the second oldest newspaper on the list, having served the people of the Gate City for the past forty-three years. The *Nyssa News* was first published in 1905.

The *Malheur Enterprise* of Vale, which has appeared under its original name since its first appearance in that city November 9, 1909, is third oldest newspaper in the county, with thirty-nine years of continual service to the inhabitants of the county seat vicinity.

The life of the *Ontario Mattock* was the shortest of any newspaper in the county, having succumbed after a brief period of about one year.

The *Eastern Oregon Observer*, launched in Ontario in 1936, was the baby among the Malheur county family of newspapers. It was eleven years old at the time it was consolidated with the *Ontario Argus*.

Both Ontario papers changed ownership near the end of 1946, bringing new publishers into the field, a situation that led to a consolidation within less than a year.

Robert E. Pollock and Jessica L. Longston of St. Helens, purchased the *Observer* from Elmo Smith on December 2, 1946; and Bernard Mainwaring and Don Lynch bought the *Argus* from Ralph Curtis January 1, 1947. Both papers stepped up publication to semi-weekly—the *Observer* making the move within less than a month following its change of ownership and the *Argus* followed suit about six months later in June of 1947.

The two papers were consolidated September 1, 1947, when Mainwaring and Lynch bought the *Observer* and combined the subscription lists to make a large semi-weekly publication known as the *Ontario Argus-Observer*.

The *Argus-Observer* was awarded the Oregon Press Conference certificate for the best reporting of public affairs in 1948, presented to Editor Don

Lynch at the annual meeting in Eugene, February 19, 1949, which reads:

"Award of Excellence presented by the Oregon Newspaper Publishing Association to Don Lynch, *Argus-Observer, Ontario*, for meritorious performance which has been judged the best in the State of Oregon during 1948 in the field of Reporting of Public Affairs. Presented at the Thirteenth Annual Oregon Press Conference, Eugene, February 19, 1949."

CHAPTER 30

ORGANIZATION OF MALHEUR COUNTY

*Out where the skies are a trifle bluer,
Out where friendship's a little truer,
That's where the West begins.
Out where a fresher breeze is blowing,
Where there's laughter in every streamlet flowing,
Where there's more of reaping and less of sowing,
That's where the West begins.*

—Arthur Chapman.

When I arrived in Ontario in March, 1886, Malheur county was a part of Baker county and Idaho was still a territory. Baker county had two representatives and one senator in the state legislature. There was some agitation under way for a division of the county, as the southern part was too far from Baker City, the county seat.

At the general state election in June, 1886, R. A. Lockett, democrat, of lower Willow creek, and I. H. Holland, of Vale, republican, were elected to the lower house of the legislature for Baker county, defeating S. P. Williams, republican, and H. C. Elms, democrat.

The election of Lockett and Holland from the southern part of the county brought the division proposal before the legislature. The act creating Malheur county passed both houses of the legislature in February, and on February 17, 1887, Governor Sylvester Pennoyer approved the measure and it became a law. By this act Malheur county assumed \$30,000 of Baker county's indebtedness. The creation of Malheur county took more than half of the original area of Baker county but less than a majority of the population, including ten of the twenty-seven precincts. The law creating the county went into effect April 1, 1887.

When the county was created the taxable property was valued at \$859,624. Within the next ten years, according to the assessed valuation of 1897, taxable property had increased to \$1,235,920. Malheur is the second largest county in the state, with 9,874 square miles, being larger than some of the New England states. Harney is the largest county in Oregon, exceeding Malheur by 202 square miles.

Vale was named temporary county seat, pending permanent choice at the next general election in June, 1888.

The first term of the Malheur county court was held in Vale on April 7, 1887. The first business transacted authorized the county clerk to receive bids for the construction of a court house, jail and vault. In the meantime the Baker county jail was to be used when needed. At the next meeting of the county court on May 2, bids were accepted for the construction of a frame building for a jail at a cost of \$4,500 and a vault to cost \$125.00. The jail bid included two steel cells. No bids having been received for the construction of a court house, the county judge and clerk were authorized to contract for the construction of a frame court house on a block of ground that had been donated for that purpose by L. B. Rinehart. The court house was built at a cost of \$1,400. Both the court house and jail were built in the summer of 1887.

The one-story frame court house fronting on the north, stood on the present site of the two-story stone court house building. The building was 30x60 feet. A south door in the clerk's office opened toward the sheriff's office in the jail building. The jail was 20x40 feet.

The first term of circuit court convened at Vale on June 27, 1887, with Judge L. B. Ison presiding and Morton D. Clifford, prosecuting attorney. The members of the first jury panel were W. C. Pennington, G. W. Pierce, W. L. Logan, Joseph A. Madden, J. D. Locey, Isaac McCumsey, H. F. Norton, George W. Brinnon, W. C. Johnson, F. B. Smith, M. Crisman, Charles Becker, J. B. McLaughlin, J. L. Yantis, J. G. Lamberson, Harry M. Plummer, John McMahon, William Shelby, Larry Faulkner, W. L. Roston, J. S. Hunter, James Lynn, A. S. Moss, Emory Cole and William J. Kane.

The grand jury selected from the above panel: Jasen S. Hunter, foreman; W. L. Logan, Charles Becker, William Shelby, M. Crisman, W. G. Pennington, and Isaac McCumsey. The grand jury returned five bills of indictment, only one of which was disposed of at this term of circuit court. The indictment was against Marquis Stewart, charged jointly with Fred Yangen for horse stealing. Stewart pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three years in the penitentiary at Salem. Court session lasted only five days.

At the July session of county court the construction of the first road was authorized. This road was built from the Halliday bridge to the Tom Glenn ford on the Malheur river. At the October term of the county court a tax levy of 22-mills, to defray the first year's expenses of the county was im-

posed, which expense was estimated at \$21,186. A school tax of 5-mills was also levied.

The act creating Malheur county also attached the county to the Sixth Judicial District, which included Baker and Grant counties. When Harney county was cut off from the southern part of Grant county two years later, Harney was included in the Sixth District. The act provided that two terms of Circuit court should be held annually in Malheur county; the first term to convene at the county seat on the fourth Monday in June, and the second term to convene on the fourth Monday in November. The act also provided that the county court should convene at the county seat on the first Monday of every alternate month.

Malheur county and Baker county comprised the Twentieth Senatorial District, entitled to one state senator, with each of the counties entitled to one state representative. At the next re-apportionment by the legislature Malheur was placed with Grant and Harney in the Twenty-second Senatorial District, with one state senator for the district, and each of the three counties entitled to one representative. Baker was made an exclusive district with one senator and two representatives. At a later apportionment Malheur and Harney was made a joint representative district with one representative for the two counties. Later Malheur and Harney were given one representative each.

At the first general state election after Malheur county was created, June 4, 1888, the selection of the permanent seat of the county government was submitted to the voters for a decision. There were six aspirants for county seat honors, including Vale. The other five were Ontario, Jordan Valley, Paris, a new town laid out by some enterprising ranchers on the upper Malheur river; Grove, just below the mouth of the Malheur river canyon; Baxterville, a site selected by another rancher on a sage-brush flat, in the vicinity of lower Bully creek. The vote resulted: Vale, 215; Jordan Valley, 202; Ontario, 163; Paris, 146; Grove, 30; Baxterville, 2.

Vale having received the highest number of the votes cast retained the county seat. But as no town received a majority of the votes the proposal was again submitted to the voters for a decision at the next general election in June, 1890. Jordan Valley having received the second highest number of votes cast in the 1888 election, Vale and Jordan Valley remained the only contenders eligible for the honor at the 1890 election. In the second and final election Vale received 459 votes and Jordan Valley 138. The overwhelming vote Vale received permanently settled the county seat question.

In the creation of new counties the selection of a county seat creates a strong rivalry between localities contending for the honor. Malheur county proved no exception to the rule. The decisive defeat of Jordan Valley in the second election seems to have eliminated that town; but Ontario still held hopes of wresting the seat of county government from Vale. While

there was considerable agitation of the question for some time in the early days it never came to a direct issue until ten years later. In December, 1898, petitions were circulated to be presented to the legislature asking for an enabling act to again bring the matter to a vote. About 700 signatures of legal voters were secured. Citizens of Vale circulated a counter-petition, as a remonstrance, which was signed by some 400 legal voters.

As a result of the renewal of the county seat removal agitation Representative J. R. Blackaby, at that time a resident of Jordan Valley, introduced House Bill No. 311 in the Legislature on January 24, 1899, asking for the question to be submitted to the voters. The bill passed the lower house of the Oregon Legislature by a vote of forty-five to six. In the meantime adherents for Vale appeared before the legislature in strong numbers to bring influence to bear on the senate asking for the defeat of the measure. The bill was lost in the senate by a tie vote of thirteen for and thirteen against the measure; with four members absent or not voting.

In December, 1900, another effort was made to bring the question to a vote. A mass meeting was held at the opera house in Ontario to discuss the question. David Wilson, who was principle owner of the Ontario town-site, agreed to donate grounds and erect a two-story brick court house. The building was to include court rooms, office rooms for county officials, vault, jail, with all necessary fixtures, at a cost of \$8,000. The building was to be 50x70 feet with brick walls thirty feet high. Mr. Wilson agreed to donate \$5,000 for the erection of the building provided citizens donate \$3,000. He agreed to post a \$15,000 bond to guarantee the fulfillment of the contract. A citizen's committee was appointed to take action in the matter, consisting of E. H. Test, chairman; J. J. Cortright, secretary; J. A. Lackey, J. M. Babcock, J. T. Clement, C. W. Platt and L. Adam. The \$3,000 was subscribed and the citizens agreed to bear the expenses for a special election. Petitions were again circulated asking for the enabling act which received 874 signatures.

The one-story frame court house and jail were still in use by the county. To counteract Ontario's effort to move the county seat the people of Vale took immediate steps toward the erection of the present two-story stone court house by popular subscription, and donate the building to the county. County Judge J. F. Stevens, Sheriff J. D. Locey and County Clerk A. G. King were appointed to act with a citizens' committee consisting of D. C. Wells, M. G. Hope, J. C. Kelley, Finley McDonald and J. L. Cole to raise funds for that purpose.

The Vale committee succeeded in raising \$10,000. The grounds for the stone court house had already been donated by the Lew Rineharts. A contract for the construction of the two-story building was awarded and the stone walls were built. I. S. Geer, of Burns, represented Malheur and Harney counties in the lower house of the legislature. Both Ontario and Vale

sent strong lobbies to Salem and an exciting contest over the enabling act was staged, in which Vale again triumphed when the act failed passage in the legislature.

In the 1902 election, E. H. Test was elected to represent Malheur and Harney counties in the legislature. Representative Test introduced and secured the passage of the enabling act in the lower house and safely engineered the bill through the senate. In the meantime, Vale had gone ahead and completed the court house and presented it to the county. With the building of the railroad to Vale and the automobile becoming a general mode of conveyance the claim could no longer be made that Vale was an isolated town. Ontario took no further steps in the county seat removal issue.

The new conditions brought about by the railroad and automobile travel appeared to have settled the county seat controversy, when it was suddenly, and unexpectedly revived in the election of 1914. None of those who had taken a prominent part in the early county seat struggles assumed a leading role in bringing the question before the public in 1914. But home town pride and loyalty caused the citizens of both Vale and Ontario to line up almost solidly when the issue was forced upon them by a small clique of late arrivals.

It is not my purpose to offer criticism in this narrative, but simply to record historic events as they occurred. The county seat question, I realize, is a delicate subject. The two Ontario precincts and the two surrounding country precincts, Fair and Cairo, voted almost solidly for the removal of the county seat from Vale to Ontario. Ontario had again subscribed the necessary funds to build a new two-story brick court house and jail and equip the same to be presented to the county free of cost to the taxpayers.

In accordance with the provisions of the enabling act a two-thirds majority of the votes cast was necessary in order to remove the county seat. But instead of Ontario gaining the required two-thirds majority she lacked 277 votes of even attaining a majority. The official count gave Vale 2,636 votes to 2,359 cast for Ontario.

With the county seat question at last definitely settled and out of the way a progressive united county, working in unison, has attained that which is of vastly more importance to Ontario, Vale, Nyssa and their surrounding communities and the county in general as well—the installation of the Owyhee and Vale government irrigation projects.

The Malheur County Fair was first sponsored and organized by a group of citizens who formed the Malheur County Agricultural Association. The annual county fair was conducted under this management for the first two years. By a vote of the electorate of Malheur county the management of the fair was then taken over by the county. The fair has proven a grand success from the very beginning and has been held annually since the date of its inception with one exception. After all necessary preparations had

been completed for the opening of the 1947 fair, the exhibition was postponed for that year upon advice of the county health officials when an epidemic of infantile paralysis suddenly broke out in southeastern Oregon and southwestern Idaho, just before the scheduled opening date of the fair.

To Professor E. B. Conklin and J. A. Lackey, more than any others I believe, should be given the credit for establishment of the Malheur County Fair. Professor Conklin, first principal of the Ontario high school and later first superintendent of the Ontario schools, was first to start the fair ball rolling. It was through his efforts the first school fair was held in Ontario in 1909. The agricultural exhibits and other displays, which attracted a great deal of attention were put on exhibition that fall in one of the large Malheur Mercantile Company warehouses. The next year, 1910, the school fair exhibits were displayed in the old Red Front livery barn on south Oregon Street. As the result of these two school fairs the Malheur County Agricultural Association, which sponsored the annual Malheur County Fair, was organized in the autumn of 1910.

J. A. Lackey was elected the first president of the association and Leon J. Chapman was chosen secretary, with C. M. Stearns assistant secretary. The Malheur county fair ground was purchased that year, and the following year, 1911, substantial exhibit halls, racing stable, buildings were erected and the splendid circle race track and grandstand were built. The first county fair was held that fall. From that date the Malheur County Fair has been an important annual event, with the exception of 1947. Mr. Lackey and Mr. Chapman were president and secretary of the Ontario Commercial Club at the time they were chosen to take charge of the fair.

While Robert A. Lockett has been termed "*The Father of Malheur County*," William Morfitt called "*The Father of Ontario*," Louis B. Rinehart, "*Father of Vale*," and Leonnox B. Boyle, "*Founder of Nyssa*," to Eugene B. Conklin and James A. Lackey should go the honor of being the originators of the Malheur County Fair. Professor Conklin could be called the legitimate father of the fair and Jim Lackey the step-daddy. For when Mr. Lackey was chosen chairman of the fair board he stepped in and devoted his entire time and attention, without remuneration, to the supervision of the fair buildings and exhibit halls, grandstand and race track. To these two worthy and energetic pioneers, more than any others, Malheur county is indebted for the establishment of this great annual institution.

James A. Lackey was the first president of the Ontario Commercial Club and A. W. Trow was the second, with Leon J. Chapman the first secretary and served with both of them.

At the annual meeting in December, 1947, the name of the organization was changed to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. Joe F. Dyers was elected president and D. D. Nicholson vice-president for the ensuing year. Earl

Blackaby was re-elected treasurer and H. F. Loque automatically retained the position of secretary.

Extracts of Pages from *Malheur County History* by Judge Thomas Jones, first Deputy County Clerk.

"The first marriage license issued by the county clerk was to Jeff Welch and Eva M. Solders and they were married at the home of the bride's parents, near Westfall, on September 8, 1887, by S. L. Payne, who was justice of the peace for Bully precinct. It will be observed that it was just five months after the organization of the county before this first marriage ceremony was performed. Quite different now, Judge McKnight would jump his job if they didn't come oftener than that. The second marriage license was to Frank M. Vines and Kittie Pritchett, and the third was to R. H. DeArmond and Emma L. Currey.

"The first deed ever recorded in Malheur county is from the Oregon Short Line Railway Company, the Idaho and Oregon Land Improvement Company and James W. Virtue, by Robert E. Strayhorn, Trustee, to John Nibler conveying Lot 16, in Block 37 of the Town of Ontario. This deed was filed April 8, 1887, and the next deed was not filed until April 15, just one week afterward. Quite different now. In those days one man could do all the recording with a stub pen. Now it takes two good stenographers with up-to-date recording machines to keep up with it.

"In looking over the old records, I find that the first contract for keeping the county poor was let to Sam Hess, November 11, 1847, at \$6.00 a week "per." I also find that on this same day, this same Sam Hess was awarded a contract for five cords of willow wood for the purpose of heating the court house and jail that winter. I want to tell you about that wood; I'll never forget it. I don't know whose land it was cut from; I don't suppose Sam does either; but it was green as a "punkin vine in July" and we couldn't find boxes, nor kindling nor coal oil enough in town to keep it burning. I think I spent half my time that winter trying to make a fire. Consequences was, all the county officials came out next spring smelling like smoked salmon and about the same color.*

"As I remember it, Mrs. Hess fed the paupers; the paupers cut the wood; we tried to burn it and Sam got the money. But when the grass came and the fish began to bite in the spring of 1888 everybody was happy.

"The first term of circuit court for Malheur county was convened in Vale on Monday, June 27, 1887, with Judge Luther B. Ison, of Baker City, presiding, and Morton D. Clifford, district attorney. The first grand jury was composed of the following well known citizens: William L. Logan, Charles Becker, William Shelby, W. G. Pennington, Issac McCumsey and J. S. Hunter. Mr. Hunter was the foreman of this, the first grand jury, and all these gentlemen are living except William Logan and William Shelby.

"The first criminal conviction in the circuit court was that of Marcus Stewart for the larceny of a horse and saddle. Stewart was sentenced on June 27, 1887, to serve three years in the penitentiary.

"Jonas Wicklund was the first person to take out naturalization papers in Malheur county. The order making him a fully naturalized citizen is dated June 29, 1887. The next two were Thomas Brosnan and William O'Brien, who were made citizens on November 21, 1887.

"The second term of circuit court, held in November, 1887, owing to the illness of Judge Ison, was presided over by Judge G. W. Walker of Pendleton.

"At this term of court was held one of the most, if not the most celebrated criminal trials ever held in Eastern Oregon. I refer to what is known as the "Strode Case."

"During the summer of that year, John Strode, the wealthiest cattle man in the Jordan valley and Sucker creek countries, whose home was in Boise, together with John J. Thurman, who was interested with him, were arrested and charged with the murder of one Samuel Rich, a sheepherder in the employ of Bob Aikman and E. P. Junor, who were the most well to do sheep men in that part of the county. The complaining witness was Ora B., commonly known as (Jim) Haynes, who had been in Strode's employ, but had been discharged. Strode and Thurman were brought to Vale; their preliminary examination held before Judge B. C.

* This was the second coldest winter in Malheur county. The winter of 1880-81 was the coldest.

Richardson, who was at the time justice of the peace. Upon testimony produced, the defendants were held without bonds, to appear before the grand jury in November and the prosecuting witness, Haynes, was held for his appearance. Strode and Thurman were held in the little jail, and as I remember it, Haynes was kept at Baker City until the trial came on. An indictment was returned by the grand jury charging the defendants with murder in the first degree. The first indictment was set aside upon demurrer, and the case was returned to the grand jury, who promptly returned a second, and upon this the defendants went to trial.

"The case was ably conducted by both sides. Prosecuting Attorney Clifford was assisted by Joseph Huston, one of the best lawyers of the state of Idaho, as well as a brilliant young attorney from Caldwell by the name of Negley, and H. C. Courtney of Vale. The defense was conducted by R. Z. Johnson, of Boise, who had for a long time been recognized as the most able trial lawyer in this part of the country, assisted by Olmsted and Anderson of Baker. The trial resulted in acquittal on December 3, 1887.

"A great deal of interest was taken in this trial and during its progress the court room was packed at all times. But those of you who were here will remember that it was not so much the trial that excited us, but the fear that at any moment, something awful might happen. We came nearer to having an out and out battle between the cattle men and sheep men during that trial than we ever have before or since. The cattlemen and cowboys were here from Harney and Malheur counties, in force and all armed. The sheepmen with their herders in almost as strong force and equally well prepared. But providently, nothing was "started" during the trial, and when the verdict was rendered cool heads among the sheepmen took charge and they all quietly left town.

"There was not more than twenty buildings in town at that time, all "shacks." I don't suppose there were over fifty beds. With three or four hundred men here you can imagine conditions; it was extremely cold, the thermometer stood at just about zero, and we had commenced on Sam Hess' willow wood, with not a ton of coal to be had. Men slept in chairs, on tables and floors wherever there was the least bit of warmth. I honestly believe that there were dozens of men here who did not have their boots off for two weeks. One night one of our hotel keepers sold his own bed to twenty different men, got the money from each of them, then was afraid to go home and slept on a billiard table. As to who this was, draw your own conclusions."

CHAPTER 31

POLITICAL HISTORY OF MALHEUR COUNTY

*I got a letter from my son out in Arizona
And I'm worried, Mr. Dorr;
He wrote they'd sent him to the legislature,
But he didn't say what for.*

—Anonymous.

The State Legislative Act creating Malheur county, authorized the governor to appoint the required number of officials until the general election of June 4, 1888. Governor Pennoyer, a democrat, named eight democrats

and one republican to serve. The republican was C. T. Locey. The officials: County Judge—Felix K. Froman, Grove; County Commissioners—John F. Lackey, Nyssa, and Cyrus T. Locey, Ironside; Sheriff—Henry C. Murray, Vale; County Clerk—Edgar H. Test, Ontario; Treasurer—L. A. Sevey, Vale; Assessor—William Ritchie, Westfall; Superintendent of Schools—Thomas Elms.

Elms, a non-resident, could not qualify. At the first regular session of the county court William G. Thomson was appointed as the first county school superintendent. At the second session, John E. Johnson of lower Bully creek, was named as county surveyor. County Clerk E. H. Test selected his brother-in-law, Thomas Jones, Dell, as his deputy. Hiram Dorris, Vale, was chosen deputy sheriff.

The county court named T. W. Halliday road master. The court established ten election precincts and road districts. They were: Ontario, Vale, Stone, Malheur, Carlile, Mormon Basin, Castle Rock, Bully, Three Forks, and Jordan Valley. Stone precinct included most of lower Willow creek; Carlile embraced the Ironside locality; Castle Rock, the Agency valley section; Bully, the Westfall and Harper communities; and Three Forks, Sucker creek. Ontario precinct included Nyssa, some of lower Owyhee and extended south to Three Forks; and west to join Vale precinct at the Halliday bridge, and north to the county line, taking in Dead Ox flat. Vale included all of the lower Malheur valley west of the Halliday bridge to the mouth of the canyon, also part of lower Willow and Bully creeks, and south to the Owyhee. Jordan Valley included all territory south of Three Forks to the Nevada state line.

The constitutional amendment granting women the right of suffrage had not been enacted; only male citizens 21 years of age or older were entitled to vote. The entire voting population of the county was around 1,000 at the first three elections. The actual vote cast at each election was less than 800.

The first general election following the creation of the county, took place June 4, 1888. This was before the enactment of the primary election law and candidates were nominated by political party conventions. Candidates for county offices were nominated at conventions and delegates were chosen to attend district and state conventions.

In the spring of 1888, both the democrats and republicans held their first conventions in Vale. The democrats placed the following candidates in the field: For legislative representative, H. Percy Napton, Westfall; for county judge, James T. Clement, Ontario; sheriff, H. C. Murray, Vale; county clerk, E. H. Test, Vale; two commissioners, Conrad Ryan, Summit, and J. C. Skelton, Westfall; for county treasurer, L. A. Seavy, Vale; W. S. Lawrence, Ironside, assessor; William Gribble, Ontario, superintendent of schools; Larry Faulkner, lower Williw Creek, for coroner.

The republican convention nominated I. H. Holland, Vale, for representative; Albert W. Kime, Westfall, county judge; C. T. Locey, Ironside, and W. G. Pennington, Vale, commissioners; Charles E. Boswell, Vale, sheriff; J. M. Harbour, Jordan Valley, county clerk; A. J. Newton, Westfall, treasurer; T. W. Halliday, White Settlement, assessor; Frank Moore, Dell, school superintendent; J. E. Johnson, Bully creek, surveyor; J. H. Kime, Vale, coroner.

Thomas Dryden, of Owyhee, entered the race as an independent candidate for sheriff.

The vote in the June election resulted: For Representative—Napton., democrat, 401; Holland, republican, 366. County Judge James T. Clement, democrat, 419; Kime, republican, 347. Sheriff—Murray, democrat, 351; Boswell, republican, 256; Dryden, independent, 162. County Clerk—Test, democrat, 489; Harbour, republican, 283. County Commissioners, (two receiving highest votes elected)—Ryan, democrat, 517; Skelton, democrat, 418; Locey, republican, 395; Pennington, republican, 114. County Treasurer—Sevey, democrat, 478; Newman, republican, 259. Assessor—Lawrence, democrat, 391; Holliday, republican, 477. Superintendent, of Schools—Moore, republican, 411; Gribble, democrat, 359. Surveyor—Johnson, republican, 360; Henry Hodges (write-in) 43. Coroner—Faulkner, democrat, 414; Kime, republican, 357.

A deadlock occurred in the democratic county convention held in Vale in 1890 for sheriff. J. M. Duncan, a deputy sheriff, and H. W. Hicks, of Jordan Valley, were the leading contenders for the nomination. A compromise resulted in the nomination of James N. Fell. The democrats put the following ticket in the field: Henry Elms, Ironside, for representative; J. N. Fell, Jordan Valley, sheriff; E. H. Test, Vale, county clerk; R. M. Worsham, Malheur City, assessor; J. W. Sevey, Vale, treasurer; A. W. Turner, Dell, commissioner; William G. Thompson, Vale, school superintendent; John R. Johnson, Harper, surveyor.

The republican convention, also held in Vale, nominated Thomas B. Littig, Mormon basin, for representative; Leonard Cole, Dell, sheriff; J. S. Edwards, Stone, county clerk; W. C. Carlton, Three Forks, assessor; A. W. Kime, Vale, treasurer; William Cowgill, Jordan Valley, commissioner; J. D. Denman, Ontario, school superintendent; John E. Johnson, Vale, surveyor.

In the general election Governor Pennoyer was re-elected and the republicans elected practically all other state officials. In the Sixth Judicial District Morton D. Clifford, the democrat district attorney, was elected circuit judge to fill the unexpired term of Judge L. B. Ison, deceased, by defeating Robert Eakin, republican. John L. Rand, republican, defeated his brother-in-law, Charles F. Hyde, democrat, in a close race for district attorney. In Malheur county the democrats elected the sheriff, clerk and

treasurer, while the republicans elected the representative, commissioners, assessor, school superintendent and surveyor.

In 1892, the democrats nominated Will R. King for representative, J. N. Fell, for sheriff; E. H. Test, county clerk; H. C. Murray, county judge; and J. W. Sevey, treasurer, all of Vale. The other nominees were L. B. Boyle, Nyssa, assessor; M. W. Hart, Westfall, commissioner; W. C. Hoseason, school superintendent; L. A. Pickler, upper Dead Ox flat, surveyor; James Mahan, Vale, coroner.

The republicans re-nominated Representative T. B. Littig. It was generally assumed the sheriff and county clerk were entitled to a second term. The republicans did not nominate a candidate to oppose Sheriff J. N. Fell. S. L. Payne, of Westfall, was nominated for county clerk. The incumbent, E. H. Test, had been nominated by the democrats for a third term. Other candidates nominated on the republican ticket were C. H. Brown, White Settlement, county judge; Webb Anderson, Dell, commissioner; A. W. Kime, Vale, treasurer; C. W. Platt, Jordan Valley, assessor; J. D. Denman, Ontario, school superintendent; Dr. G. A. Pogue, Ontario, coroner.

The election results were: for representative, King, democrat, 370; Littig, republican, 257; county judge, Brown, republican, 322, Murray, democrat, 313; sheriff, Fell, (unopposed) 571; county clerk, Test, democrat, 365, Payne, republican, 270; commissioner, Anderson, republican, 341, Hart, democrat, 293; treasurer, Kime, republican, 394, Sevey, democrat, 237; assessor, Platt, republican, 332, Boyle, democrat, 299; school superintendent, Denman, republican, 394, Hoseason, democrat, 240; surveyor, Pickler, democrat, (unopposed) 539; coroner, Pogue, republican, 120, Mahan, democrat, 42.

Judge M. D. Clifford, democrat, was re-elected circuit judge. The Malheur county vote was Clifford, 325; H. Kelley, republican, 265; William Green, populist, 33. C. F. Hyde, democrat, was elected district attorney. The county vote was Hyde, 319; G. H. Finn, republican, 259; G. Griffin, populist, 40. W. G. Hunter, democrat, was elected to the board of equalization. In the county Hunter received 320 votes to 308 cast for William Morfitt, republican.

At the state election on June 4, 1894, for the first time in the county history, there were three tickets in the field, democrats, republicans and populists. All three party conventions were held in Vale.

The democrats nominated the following ticket: for representative, R. A. Locket, Dell; sheriff, J. M. Duncan, Vale; clerk, B. L. Milligan, Juntura; commissioner, G. B. Glover, Jordan Valley; assessor, C. T. Yantis, Vale; treasurer, J. W. Sevey, Vale; superintendent of schools, Miss Thressa Keenan, Jordan Valley; surveyor, L. A. Pickler, Dead Ox Flat; coroner, James Mahan, Vale.

The republicans nominated I. W. Hope, Vale, for representative; T. W.

Halliday, Vale, sheriff; C. W. Platt, Vale, county clerk; Dennis Dyer, lower Dead Ox Flat, commissioner; James M. Weaver, Vale, treasurer; Z. G. Wilson, Vale, assessor; Miss Susie Moore, Dell, school superintendent; Dr. G. A. Pogue, Ontario, coroner. Pogue declined the nomination.

The populists nominated W. S. Lawrence, Ironside, for sheriff; J. C. Skelton, Westfall, county clerk; Joseph Whitely, Ironside, commissioner; U. G. Pogue, Ontario, assessor; E. F. Allen, Ontario, treasurer; Mrs. R. G. Wheeler, Vale, school superintendent; Benjamin McDonald, Vale, coroner.

Up to this time the democrats had elected most of the important county officials and won majorities for national, state and district candidates. The new populist party drew stronger from the democrats than the republicans, and as a result the republicans elected all of the county candidates with the exception of two minor offices, surveyor and coroner, for which they presented no candidates. Interest in the election centered mostly in the races for sheriff and county clerk. In the republican convention there had been a close contest between T. W. Halliday and Leonard Cole.

The official June vote gave for representative, Hope, republican, 386; Lockett, democrat, 374. Sheriff, Halliday, republican, 306; Duncan, democrat, 298; Lawrence, populist, 183. Clerk, Platt, republican, 342; Milligan, democrat, 294; Skelton, populist, 150. Commissioner, Dyer, republican, 331; Glover, democrat, 241; Whitely, populist, 209. Assessor, Wilson, republican, 290; Yantis, democrat, 241; Pogue, populist, 238. Treasurer, Weaver, republican, 371; Sevey, democrat, 244; Allen, populist, 177. School superintendent, Moore, republican, 320; Wheeler, populist, 252; Keenen, democrat, 199. Surveyor, Pickler, democrat (unopposed), 635. Coroner, McDonald, populist, 472; Mahan, democrat, 221.

Will R. King, a resident of Baker, running on the populist ticket, defeated Charles A. Johns, of Baker, for senator from Baker and Malheur counties. This county gave King, populist, 434 votes and Johns, republican, 321. E. H. Test had received the democratic nomination but withdrew from the race with the understanding that the populists would support Lockett and the democrats would vote for King, a former democrat. O. F. Buse, a Vale lawyer, sought the populist nomination for representative but that party refused to nominate him. Buse then had his name put on the ballot by petition. He received very few votes in the election, but evidently enough to defeat Lockett, who trailed Hope by only twelve votes. Lockett was Test's uncle by marriage.

James A. Fee, republican, was elected circuit judge. John L. Rand, Baker republican, was elected district attorney over J. M. Corral, democrat, and W. Pearson, populist. In Malheur county Rand received 337; Corral, 212; Pearson, 197. This was the first republican victory in the county of the offices of sheriff and clerk.

Upon assuming the office of sheriff, T. W. Halliday named C. E. Bos-

well, deputy. In seeking re-nomination in 1896 Halliday was opposed by Boswell, who claimed to have performed the duties of sheriff while Halliday was a mere figurehead. In the June election Halliday threw his support to J. N. Fell, the democratic candidate. Had that support gone to J. D. Locey, the populist candidate, Holliday could have undoubtedly controlled enough votes to defeat Boswell, as Locey ran only 15 votes behind Boswell with Fell trailing Locey by two votes.

The memorable political campaign of 1896 was very exciting throughout the nation with the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 (16 ounces of silver to one ounce of gold) the main issue. For the second time there were three political parties in the county—republican, democrat and populist. The republican nominees were: representative, I. W. Hope; county judge, C. H. Brown; commissioner, James Morfitt, Malheur City; sheriff, C. E. Boswell; county clerk, C. W. Platt, Vale; treasurer, James M. Weaver, Vale; assessor, John Ward, Nyssa; school superintendent, Frank J. Stanton, Malheur City; coroner, Dr. G. A. Pogue.

The democratic convention nominated B. C. Richardson, Vale, county judge; J. N. Fell, Vale, sheriff; E. C. Bunch, Ontario, clerk; Sidney Knight, Jordan Valley, commissioner; J. W. Sevey, Vale, treasurer; A. G. King, Vale, assessor; A. J. Callaway, Juntura, school superintendent; L. A. Pickler, Dead Ox Flat, surveyor; Dr. F. K. Froman, Grove, coroner.

The populists named M. N. Fegtley, Watson, representative; J. D. Locey, Ironside, sheriff; W. C. Carlton, Three Forks, clerk; J. Henry Wilson, Owyhee, assessor; John Doran, Ontario, treasurer; William Lemmon, Ontario, school superintendent; J. S. Millikin, Owyhee, surveyor; R. N. Linebarger, Vale, coroner.

In the June election the republicans elected six of the ten candidates, representative, sheriff, clerk, commissioner, treasurer, school superintendent; the populists two, county judge and surveyor; and the democrats two, assessor and coroner. The vote: representative, Hope, republican, 441; Fegtley, populist, 387. County judge, Lamberson, populist, 351; Richardson, democrat, 345; Brown, republican, 196. Commissioner, Morfitt, republican, 424; Knight, democrat, 289; Gray, populist, 81. Sheriff, Boswell, republican, 310; Locey, populist, 295; Fell, democrat, 293. Clerk, Platt, republican, 422; Bunch, democrat, 313; Carlton, populist, 162. Treasurer, Weaver, republican, 407; Sevey, democrat, 266. Assessor, Doran, populist, 198; King, democrat, 321; Ward, republican, 303; Wilson, populist, 251. Superintendent of schools, Stanton, republican, 340; Callaway, democrat, 268; Lemmon, populist, 260. Surveyor, Millikin, populist, 389; Pickler, democrat, 356. Coroner, Froman, democrat, 365; Linebarger, populist, 348.

The republicans elected all the state and district officials. The sixth judicial district had been revised and Malheur, Grant and Harney now com-

prised the ninth district. C. W. Parrish, republican, was elected district attorney with a county vote of 390, over O. B. Buse, populist, who received 236, G. A. Sweek, democrat, 223, and M. Dustin, independent, 34. I. H. Holland was elected to the board of equalization over G. W. Pierce. Holland, republican, received 441 county votes to 387 cast for Pierce, populist. All populist candidates ran second in the state and district.

Sheriff Boswell named his nephew, John Boswell, deputy, and County Clerk Platt chose J. W. Haworth, deputy.

In the November presidential election William J. Bryan received more than twice the county votes cast for William McKinley. Bryan, democrat, got 654 votes to 312 for McKinley. McKinley carried the state.

In the 1898 election the democrats and populists united in putting a fusion ticket in the field in both the county and state. In the county the silver wing of the republican party sought to join the collation but was ignored by the other two parties. The democratic and populist conventions convened on the same date in Vale. A committee was named by each party to meet jointly for the purpose of making an equitable division of candidates from each party on the fusion ticket. The names of the candidates and the party with which each was affiliated follows:

Representative, J. R. Blackaby, democrat, Jordan Valley. Sheriff, Julian D. Locey, populist, Ironside. Clerk, Almer G. King, democrat, Vale. Commissioner, G. W. Blanton, populist, Ontario. Treasurer, Ed R. Murrey, democrat, Vale. Assessor, J. Henry Wilson, populist, Owyhee. Superintendent of schools, B. L. Milligan, democrat, Juntura. Surveyor, J. S. Millikin, populist, Ontario. Coroner, John Doran, populist, Ontario.

A committee of silver republicans named three candidates, the number they considered they should be entitled to in a collation with the democrats and populist; nominating G. L. King, Ontario, for representative; J. W. Haworth, Vale, county clerk; T. F. Olk, Vale, treasurer. These names were put on the silver republican ticket.

The regular republicans re-nominated four incumbents for another term: Sheriff C. E. Boswell, County Clerk C. W. Platt, Treasurer J. M. Weaver, School superintendent F. J. Stanton. S. L. Payne, Westfall, received the nomination for assessor; R. H. Hart, Jordan Valley, commissioner; Dr. H. T. Hoople, Vale, coroner. The county central committee later placed the name of W. A. Sisson, White Settlement, for representative on the ticket by petition.

Delegates of all four political parties convened in Portland at the same time, March 26, to nominate state and district candidates. The democrats, populist and silver republicans combined to put a fusion ticket in the field headed by Will R. King, Baker, for governor. A middle-of-the-road faction of the populists bolted and put a separate ticket in the field, headed by John C. Luce, Grant county resident. Timothy T. Geer, a tall individual, fre-

quently called "Tall Timothy of Waldo Hills," was nominated by the regular republicans for governor.

The fusionists nominated M. D. Clifford, democrat, for circuit judge; Errett Hicks, democrat, district attorney; William Smith, populist, state senator; J. R. Gregg, member of board of equalization. The republicans nominated C. M. Parrish for circuit judge; William Miller, district attorney; J. H. Aitkin, state senator; William Hall, board of equalization.

All republican candidates for state offices were elected. In the ninth district, where the vote was more evenly divided, Judge M. D. Clifford was re-elected over C. W. Parish, republican, and Thornton Williams, independent, by a plurality of 119 in the district. William Miller won over E. Hicks for district attorney by only 34 votes. Hall defeated Gregg by a smaller margin of only 16 votes. Gregg carried Harney by 128 votes and his home county by 118, but this margin of 246 votes was overcome in the strongly republican county of Grant. Smith beat Aitkin for senator from Baker and Malheur.

The fusionists almost made a clean sweep in Malheur county, the republicans electing the coroner and the vote for assessor resulting in a tie. The official vote gave: for representative, Blackaby, fusionist, 528; Sisson, republican, 343; King, silver republican, 61. Sheriff, Locey, fusionist, 517; Boswell, republican, 427. County Clerk, King, fusionist, 498; Platt, republican, 345; Haworth, silver republican, 102. Treasurer, Murray, fusionist, 441; Weaver, republican, 438; Olk, silver republican, 103. Commissioner, Blanton, fusionist, 447; Hart, republican 424. Assessor, Wilson, fusionist, 438; Payne, republican, 438. School superintendent, Milligan, fusionist, 470; Stanton, republican, 420. Surveyor, Millikin, fusionist, (unopposed) 558. Coroner, Hoople, republican, 486; John Doran, fusionist, 376. The tie vote for assessor between Payne and Wilson was decided by drawing slips of paper from an envelope—as provided by law—in which Payne drew the lucky number. This was the first tie vote to occur in the county.

Upon assuming the office of sheriff, Locey named James E. Lawrence, Ironside, as deputy. A. G. King, selected W. G. Thomson, Vale, as deputy clerk.

At the fusionist convention in Vale in the spring of 1900, five of the incumbents in office were re-nominated: J. G. Lamberson for county judge; J. D. Locey for sheriff, A. G. King for clerk, B. L. Milligan, school superintendent, and J. S. Millikin, surveyor. J. G. Gartin, Jordan Valley, was nominated for commissioner; William Plughoff, Vale, treasurer; M. N. Feghtley, Watson, assessor.

The republicans nominated J. F. Stevens, Malheur City, for county judge; James A. Newton, Vale, sheriff; S. L. Payne, Westfall, clerk; J. C. Kelley, Vale, treasurer; W. H. Pullen, Owyhee, assessor; T. A. Barton, Jor-

dan Valley, commissioner; Dr. H. T. Hoople, Vale, was re-nominated for coroner. No nominations were made for superintendent of schools nor surveyor.

Following is the result of the election in the district and county: Miller, running for re-election of district attorney, defeated King. King carried the county 510 to 409. Both were residents of Ontario. I. S. Geer, Burns, republican, defeated W. D. Baker, democrat, Drewsey, for representative from Malheur and Harney counties.

Official vote for Malheur county candidates: County Judge, Stevens, republican, 493. Lamberson, fusionist, 428. Sheriff, Locey, fusionist, 646; Newton, republican, 296. Clerk, King, fusionist, 569; Payne, republican, 364. Treasurer, Kelley, republican, 525; Plughoff, fusionist, 406. Assessor, Pullen, republican, 498; Fegtley, fusionist, 390. Commissioner, Barton, republican, 449; Garten, fusionist, 441. School Superintendent, Milligan, fusionist, (unopposed) 662. Millikin, fusionist, (unopposed) for surveyor, received 614, and Dr. Hoople, republican, unopposed, 652 for coroner. Milligan, running alone, polled the largest vote cast for a candidate up to this time. Locey received the greatest number of votes cast for a candidate having an opponent, defeating his rival by considerably more than two to one.

During all this time Oregon citizens who had failed to register could qualify and vote on election day by swearing in their votes before election judges.

By 1900, the voting precincts in the county had doubled, numbering eighteen, as compared with the original nine at the time the county was organized in 1887.

In 1902, the democrats meeting in Vale nominated James E. Lawrence for sheriff, William G. Thomson for clerk, G. W. Blanton was re-nominated for commissioner. H. B. Donahey, Vale, treasurer; Thomas Goodyear, Jordan Valley, assessor. J. S. Millikin was re-nominated for surveyor. Dr. R. O. Payne, Ontario, was nominated for coroner.

For the first time in county history, a political nominating convention was held in Ontario, when the republicans met in the opera house. I. W. Hope, Vale, officiated as permanent chairman. The following ticket was named: A. L. Sproul, postmaster of Ontario, was nominated for sheriff; J. D. Fairman, Westfall, county clerk; J. C. Kelley, Vale, re-nominated for treasurer; W. H. Pullen, re-nominated for assessor. Ex-County Judge C. H. Brown named for commissioner, and Dr. H. T. Hoople was re-nominated for coroner.

Two independent candidates entered the field. They were S. N. Emison, Nyssa, for commissioner; and Zac G. Wilson, Vale, for assessor.

The democratic state convention, meeting in Portland, nominated George E. Chamberland, former attorney general, for governor, and Colonel C. E. S.

Wood for United States senator; E. H. Test for representative from Malheur and Harney counties; Smith for senator from Baker and Malheur counties. The republicans named W. J. Furnish for governor and T. T. Geer for United States senator. J. L. Rand, Baker, for state senator, and Fred J. Palmer, Jordan Valley, representative.

In the general election Chamberlain defeated Furnish for governor and Geer defeated Wood for United States senator. Rand defeated Smith for state senator and Test defeated Palmer for representative. For the first time in the county the total vote exceeded 1,000. Following is the Malheur county official vote:

For governor, Chamberlain, democrat, 549; Furnish, republican, 543; Hunsaker, prohibitionist, 20; Ryan socialist, 18. United States senator, Geer, republican, 518; Wood, democrat, 407. State senator, Rand, republican, 561; Smith, democrat, 520. Representative, Test, democrat, 600; Palmer, republican, 511. Sheriff, Lawrence, democrat, 625; Sproul, republican, 484. Clerk, Thomson, democrat, 549, Fairman, republican, 496. Treasurer, Kelley, republican, 673; Donahey, democrat, 402. Assessor, Pullen, republican, 565; Goodyear, democrat, 464; Wilson, independent, 79. Commissioner, Blanton, democrat, 489; Emison, independent, 371; Brown, republican, 254. Surveyor, Evans, republican, 576; Millikin, democrat, 499. Coroner, Hoople, republican, 542; Payne, democrat, 500.

In 1904, George E. Davis won the republican nomination in the primary election for circuit judge from Wells W. Wood, and then defeated the democratic incumbent, M. D. Clifford. All three candidates were living in Grant county. After his election Judge Davis came to Vale to reside. Wood later settled in Ontario and Clifford moved to Baker. J. W. McCulloch, Vale, defeated the incumbent, William Miller, Ontario, for district attorney, and was elected over the democratic candidate, Errett Hicks, Burns. After he was elected McCulloch changed his residence from Vale to Ontario. After his defeat Miller went to Seaside where he resided until his death.

The democrats, holding most of the county offices, re-nominated B. C. Richardson for county judge; J. E. Lawrence, sheriff; W. G. Thomson, clerk; G. W. Blanton, commissioner; B. L. Milligan, school superintendent; J. S. Millikin, surveyor. Water M. Glenn was nominated for treasurer, R. D. Greer for assessor and Dr. R. O. Payne for coroner.

The republicans nominated C. T. Locey for county judge; William Jones for commissioner; Clarence Howard, sheriff; J. J. Cortright, clerk; Elmer A. Clark, treasurer; S. L. Payne, assessor; J. R. Evans, surveyor; O. H. Byland, school superintendent; Dr. H. T. Hoople, coroner.

For the first and only time in the history of the county the prohibition party placed a county ticket in the field. The nominees were: W. W. Beam, Ironside, county judge; G. W. Long, Ontario, sheriff; J. M. Harris, Owyhee, commissioner; Rev. J. A. Morrow, Vale, treasurer; R. B. Thomson, Nyssa,

assessor; Dr. B. F. Nott, dentist of Ontario, coroner. The party drew very light support.

In the June election the democrats re-elected Richardson, county judge; Lawrence, sheriff; Thomson, clerk; Milligan, school superintendent; Millikin, surveyor; Blanton, commissioner. The republicans elected Clark, treasurer; Payne, assessor; Hoople, coroner.

W. J. Coleman, Canyon City, was the first official court stenographer for the Ninth Judicial District. When Judge G. E. Davis was elected in 1904 William M. Walker succeeded Coleman and has held the position ever since. When Judge Davis moved from Canyon City to Vale, Mr. Walker brought his family to Ontario where they have since resided.

With the enactment of the primary election law the first nominations of party candidates by direct vote of the people took place early in April, 1906. By that time the political trend in the county toward the republican party had increased the registration of G. O. P. affiliates to a lead of about 300 over democratic adherents. A state re-apportionment of the legislative districts made Malheur county one district, thus separating it from Harney county.

The democrats nominated Robert van Gilse, Arcadia, representative; D. H. Kerfoot, Ontario, sheriff; B. W. Mulkey, Vale, clerk; B. W. Brown, Vale, treasurer; W. S. Lawrence, Ironside, commissioner; Dr. Taylor, Jordan Valley, coroner. No nomination was made for surveyor.

B. W. Mulkey, who had served two terms as deputy clerk under Clerk W. G. Thomson, was the only successful democratic candidate for county office. Although D. H. Kerfoot, at the time city marshal of Ontario, ran only four votes behind Odell for sheriff. George E. Chamberlain was re-elected governor while the republicans elected all the other state candidates.

In 1908, the republicans re-nominated J. W. McCulloch for district attorney; W. H. Brooke, representative; Robert Odell, sheriff; J. H. Seaward, commissioner; Fred B. Zuts, surveyor; and T. T. Nelson, coroner. All were nominated without opposition. In a three-cornered race for county judge A. A. (Doc) Brown won with 267 votes over Gus E. Hurley who received 176 votes and George W. Hayes, 148. T. W. Halliday was nominated for treasurer over John Boswell by 336 to 163 and 116 cast for J. H. Farley. S. L. Payne defeated George Cline for assessor 386 to 163.

In the democratic primary William Morfitt was nominated for representative, B. C. Richardson, county judge, J. M. Duncan, sheriff, B. W. Mulkey, clerk, C. O. Thomas, treasurer, A. B. McPherson, assessor, C. W. Mallett, commissioner, B. L. Milligan, school superintendent, Paul Jones, surveyor, Dr. R. O. Payne, coroner. There were four candidates for assessor. McPherson got 173 votes; W. W. Looney, 88; D. P. Dearborn, 80; and J. H. Forbes, 67.

The socialists placed the following ticket in the field: John E. Johnson,

county judge; Fred Branden, sheriff; C. E. Hammond, clerk; C. E. Lemoin, assessor; E. B. Nelson, treasurer; Frank Foils, commissioner; Elmer Wiclund, surveyor; and Fred Brown, coroner.

The date of the general election was changed from June to November. In the September 24, 1910, primary election the republicans re-nominated Circuit Judge George E. Davis, Representative W. H. Brooke, Sheriff Robert Odell, and Treasurer T. W. Halliday. Frank Morfitt was nominated for clerk and Melvin D. Kelley for commissioner. The democrats nominated Dalton Biggs for circuit judge, Thomas E. McKnight for representative, W. G. Thomson, county clerk, D. H. Kerfoot, sheriff; Thomas Jones, treasurer; R. O. Payne, coroner. There were only two contests in the republican primary and one in the democratic primary. G. E. Davis was re-nominated for district judge over Wells W. Wood. Malheur county gave Davis 310 votes to 162 for Wood. The republican vote for county clerk was 302 for Frank Morfitt against 182 for David F. Graham. The vote in the democratic primary was D. H. Kerfoot, 225, R. J. Ivers, 59, and R. M. Carlile, 57. The socialist named a ticket.

In the November general election Dalton Biggs, democrat, was elected circuit judge over incumbent G. E. Davis. Biggs carried Malheur county by a vote of 988 to 598 for Davis. W. H. Brooke, republican, was re-elected representative, receiving 730 votes; Thomas E. McKnight, democrat, 581; J. Edwin Johnson, socialist, 288. D. H. Kerfoot, democrat, defeated Robert Odell, republican, for sheriff by a vote of 864 to 781, with 53 votes being cast for E. B. Nelson, socialist. Frank Morfitt, republican, won the office of county clerk with a vote of 981 to 653 cast for W. G. Thomson, democrat, and 85 for C. E. Hammond, socialist. For Commissioner, M. D. Kelley, republican, was elected with 1,311 votes to 172 for the socialist candidate, T. W. Halliday was re-elected treasurer with 825 to 661 for Jones, democrat. Dr. R. O. Payne was re-elected coroner with a vote of 1,233 to 198 for George Johnson, socialist. Payne had been endorsed by both democrats and republicans at the primary election.

In the 1912 republican primary, W. H. Brooke, of Ontario, was nominated in a four-cornered race for district attorney of the Ninth District. The vote in Malheur county was Brooke, 273; R. M. Duncan, Ontario, 286; G. W. Haynes, Vale, 132; J. E. Marks, Canyon City, 46. Julian A. Hurley, Vale, defeated A. G. Kingman, Kingman Colony, for representative. In a three-cornered race for county judge, George W. McKnight was nominated by a vote of 358, with Harry B. Grauel, Ontario, receiving 290, and C. C. Wilson, Nyssa, running a poor third with only 113. There were also three republican aspirants for county clerk, won by David F. Graham, Vale, over the incumbent, Frank Morfitt. Graham received 323 votes, Morfitt, 281; Edward L. King, Ontario, was a poor third with 159. R. S. Copleland, Grove, was nominated for sheriff without opposition. T. W. Halliday was

beaten for re-nomination for county treasurer by J. Ralph Weaver, son of a former county treasurer, James Weaver. Louis E. Hill was nominated for assessor, receiving 273 votes in a close race with F. B. Zutz with 270, and 171 cast for E. E. Kendall. John F. Weaver was re-nominated for commissioner and Dr. R. O. Payne for coroner by a write-in vote, as in the previous primary election.

In the democratic primary James F. Mahan, Mule, was named for candidate for state senator; W. F. Homan, Ontario, for representative; L. J. Aker, Ontario, district attorney. Dan H. Kerfoot was re-nominated for sheriff with no opposition, receiving 374 votes. John P. Houston, unopposed for county clerk, received 349 votes. Commissioner C. W. Mallett, seeking re-election, had two opponents. He was re-nominated with 142 over E. H. Brumbach, Big Bend, who was given 120 votes and E. J. Patch, Snake river precinct, was given 102 votes. W. S. Lawrence was unopposed for county judge as was also A. B. McPherson, re-nominated for school superintendent, and Coroner R. O. Payne. Andrew M. Lackey, Ontario, was nominated over two opponents for assessor. The vote: Lackey, 179; D. P. Dearborn, 127; A. E. Schmidt, 72.

In the November election W. H. Brooke was elected district attorney by an overwhelming vote. The vote in Malheur county: Brooke, republican, 1,082; Aker, democrat, 706. Loring V. Stewart, republican, was elected joint senator over James F. Mahan, democrat. The county vote: Stewart, 814; Mahan, 706; R. W. Evans, independent, 215. W. F. Homan, democrat, was chosen representative with a vote of 842 compared with 692 for J. A. Hurley, republican, and 124 for J. Edwin Johnson, socialist. G. W. McKnight, republican, with a vote of 916 was elected county judge over W. S. Lawrence, who received 738 as democratic candidate and 124 for John E. Johnson, socialist. Sheriff D. H. Kerfoot, democrat, was re-elected over R. S. Copleland, republican, by 1,090 to 716, and F. L. Anderson, socialist, 121. J. P. Houston, democrat, elected county clerk with 900 votes to 865 cast for D. R. Graham and 145 for Ben W. Corbett, socialist. John F. Weaver, republican, defeated C. W. Mallett, democrat for commissioner 1,324 to 444, with 184 cast for L. P. Peterson, socialist. J. Ralph Weaver, republican, elected treasurer with 1,053 to 639 for C. O. Thomas, democrat, and 173 for E. B. Nelson, socialist. Louis B. Hill, republican, defeated A. M. Lackey, democrat, for assessor 1,018 to 800. A. B. McPherson, democrat, elected school superintendent over Nathan Conklin, republican, 880 to 870. James F. Miller, republican, was elected surveyor over B. F. Farmer, democrat, 591 and J. S. Millikin, 241. Coroner R. O. Payne, democrat-republican, unopposed, 1,398.

In 1914, the democrats re-nominated W. F. Homan for joint representative of Malheur and Harney counties. The republicans named Frank Davey, Burns, to oppose him. D. H. Kerfoot, who had served two terms as Mal-

heur county sheriff, complied with the unwritten rule and did not seek a third term. His deputy, Ben J. Brown, was nominated by the democrats. Odell was again nominated by the republicans. J. P. Houston, county clerk, was re-nominated by the democrats for a second term. C. A. Gilham was named as his opponent by the republicans. Treasurer J. Ralph Weaver was re-nominated by the republicans for a second term. D. P. Dearborn was named by the democrats for treasurer; and E. H. Brumbach, democrat, was nominated for commissioner. Surveyor J. F. Miller was re-nominated for a second term by the republicans and the democrats again named B. F. Farmer to oppose him. Coroner R. O. Payne was again nominated by both political parties.

There was a decided increase in the county vote in 1914. Frank Davey, republican, was elected joint representative over W. F. Homan, democrat. The vote was Homan, 1,849, Davey, 1,803, J. Edwin Johnson, socialist, 452. Davey won by running 575 votes ahead of Homan in Harney county. Ben J. Brown, democrat, was elected sheriff over Robert Odell, republican, by a vote of 2,655 to 2,229. County Clerk J. P. Houston, democrat, was re-elected by a vote of 2,724 to 1,620 for C. A. Gilham, republican. Treasurer J. R. Weaver, republican, was retained in office by 2,389 to 1,810 for D. P. Dearborn, democrat. Commissioner M. D. Kelley, was re-elected over E. H. Brumbach by the narrow margin of 2,063 to 2,011. Surveyor J. F. Miller, republican, was defeated for re-election by B. F. Farmer, Nyssa, democrat, by a vote of 2,039 to 1,923. Coroner R. O. Payne was retained in office by 3,206 votes. Assessor L. E. Hill, republican, was re-elected.

At the first primary election the republicans nominated G. L. King, Ontario, representative; Robert Odell, Westfall, sheriff; C. A. Gilham, Vale, county clerk; Elmer A. Clark, Vale, treasurer; W. J. Scott, Dell, commissioner; N. E. Smith, Vale, surveyor; J. H. Farley, Ontario, coroner.

A movement had been launched by citizens of Huntington to have part of Baker county annexed to Malheur, including Huntington, in an effort to have the county seat of Malheur removed to that town at a later election.

In the 1916 primary election the democrats re-nominated Judge Dalton Biggs of the ninth district, who received 603 votes in this county. R. W. Swagler was nominated for district attorney, receiving 484 in the county. Sheriff Ben J. Brown was endorsed for a second term by 633 democratic voters. County Clerk J. P. Houston, completing his second term, stepped aside and his deputy, Arthur Moody, was given 635 votes. Ross A. Seward was named for treasurer by 552 votes. Surveyor B. F. Farmer was re-nominated by 597 votes. Fay Clark was given 580 votes for school superintendent. Coroner Payne was again endorsed by both parties. There was only one contest in the democratic primary, that for assessor, which was won by R. M. Carlile. The vote: Carlile, 229; B. W. Mulkey, 156; J. M. Duncan, 153; Guy Johnson, 114; L. J. Willis, 66; A. E. Schmidt, 28.

In the republican primary vote in this county: for state senator, J. A. Hurley, 877; A. W. Gowan, 396; L. V. Stewart, 244. Representative, M. Crandall, 802; J. J. Phillips, 468; James J. Donnagan, 226. District attorney, R. M. Duncan, 967; P. J. Gallagher, 713. Sheriff, Emory Cole, 1,125; J. S. Woods, 422. County clerk, V. B. Staples, unopposed, 1,323. Treasurer, C. C. Mueller, 857; H. H. Williams, 689. Assessor, L. E. Hill, 754; A. A. Roberts, 440; F. B. Zutz, 338; S. L. Payne, 194. Commissioner, J. F. Weaver, unopposed, 1,295. School superintendent, Estelle Conklin, running alone, 603. Surveyor, J. F. Miller, 1,265.

In the general election of November 7, 1916, Circuit Judge Dalton Biggs, unopposed, received 3,047 votes. R. W. Swagler, democrat, defeated R. M. Duncan, republican, for district attorney. The county vote: Swagler, 1,866; Duncan, 1,721. The democrats elected all county officials but commissioner and treasurer. The vote: for sheriff, B. J. Brown, democrat, 2,022; Emory Cole, republican, 1,627; S. J. Bean, socialist, 268. Clerk, A. M. Moody, democrat, 1,911; V. B. Staples, republican, 1,669; Harriet Sears, socialist, 285. Treasurer, C. C. Mueller, republican, 1,818; R. A. Soward, democrat, 1,480; Pauline Sears, socialist, 397. Assessor, R. M. Carlile, democrat, 1,926; L. E. Hill, republican, 1,617; W. L. Keller, socialist, 281. School superintendent, Fay Clark, democrat, 1,958; Estelle Conklin, republican, 1,627. Surveyor, B. F. Farmer, democrat, 1,611; J. F. Miller, republican, 1,426; Percy M. Johnson, socialist, 427. Commissioner, J. F. Weaver, republican, 1,589; J. G. Lamberson, democrat, 1,316. Coroner, R. O. Payne, democrat-republican, 2,422; D. M. Winter, socialist, 410.

In the May 17 1918, primary election, P. J. Gallagher won the republican nomination for representative over C. M. Crandall by a vote of 1,196 to 641. There were three republican aspirants in the race for county judge. Judge G. W. McKnight, Vale, seeking re-election, won over C. C. Wilson, Nyssa, and H. L. Poorman, Ontario. McKnight received 360 votes, Wilson 301 and Poorman 247. F. M. Vines, for commissioner, and C. C. Mueller, for treasurer, were unopposed.

All democrats were nominated without opposition. E. H. Test was named for county judge and B. C. Richardson for commissioner. Sheriff B. J. Brown, who had served two terms, stepped aside and H. Lee Noe, who had been his deputy, was nominated. A. M. Moody was nominated for a second term as county clerk, as was R. M. Carlile, for assessor. Miss Mary Glenn, Vale, was nominated for treasurer by a write-in vote but declined. County Surveyor B. F. Farmer was named for another term and Coroner R. O. Payne was again the choice of both parties.

At the November election neither party had a full ticket in the field. E. H. Test, democrat, defeated the incumbent for county judge, G. W. McKnight, by a vote of 1,327 to 700, almost two to one. F. M. Vines republican, was elected commissioner over B. C. Richardson, democrat, by a vote of

1,181 to 705. The unopposed candidates received the following votes: H. L. Noe, democrat, for sheriff, 1,701; A. M. Moody, democrat, for clerk, 1,608; Treasurer C. C. Mueller, republican, 1,538; Surveyor B. F. Farmer, democrat, 1,476, Coroner R. O. Payne, democrat-republican, 1,632. Assessor R. M. Carlile was also unopposed.

Race for state senator Charles W. Ellis, republican, Burns, won from W. F. Homan, democrat, Ontario. The county vote was Ellis, 1,750; Homan, 1,463. For representative, P. J. Gallagher, republican, Ontario, supported by both parties received 2,490. For District Attorney, Robert D. Lytle, republican, Vale defeated R. W. Swagler, democrat, Ontario, 1,963 to 1,351. Sheriff H. Lee Noe, democrat, unopposed, 2,877. Clerk Harry S. Sackett, republican, 2,801; Roy J. Smith, democrat, 1,131. Commissioner Gilbert W. Dean, republican, unopposed, 2,451. Treasurer C. C. Mueller, republican, defeated S. F. Rieder, democrat, 2,221 to 970. Assessor, Andrew M. Graham, republican, 1,562; R. M. Carlile, democrat, 1,312. Superintendent of Schools, Effie M. Crail, republican, 2,036; Fay Clark Hurley, democrat, (who since the last election had married Julian A. Hurley) 946. Surveyor, H. Tamblyn, democrat, unopposed, 1,662. Coroner, R. O. Payne, democrat, unopposed, 2,242. The republicans captured eight of the district and county offices and the democrats three.

In the republican primary election May 19, 1922, the race for representative from the 22nd district between C. M. Crandall, Vale, and P. J. Gallagher, Ontario, was very close, with Crandall winning by only 25 votes. The *Ontario Argus* attributed Gallagher's defeat to misleading reports circulated by some of the opposition concerning a road map printed for the tourist bureau that omitted the line of the John Day Highway between Ontario and Nyssa. While this blunder was evidently made by someone in Portland or Salem, the blame, for political purposes, was charged to Ontario and used against Mr. Gallagher. The *Argus* cited as evidence of this fact that the Nyssa vote was 51 to 3 in favor of Crandall, which gave him a lead of about twice the majority he received of the entire vote cast in the county.

Walter M. Pierce, of Union county, was named for governor. Judge Dalton Biggs was unopposed for re-nomination for circuit Judge, and J. A. Lackey, Ontario, had no opposition for representative. In the general election Judge Biggs had the support of both parties. J. A. Lackey, democrat, defeated C. M. Crandall, republican, for representative 1,158 to 819. Walter Pierce was elected governor.

In the 1924 May primaries, Congressman Sinnott easily defeated Geo. T. Cochran, La Grande, for the republican nomination. The three democratic aspirants were J. H. Graham, Baker; R. W. Swagler, Ontario; B. F. Wilson, Union. Graham won in the primary. The vote: Graham, 3,491;

Swagler, 3,134; Wilson, 2,316. Sinnott was re-elected over Graham by a large majority.

For state senator, Geo. E. Davis, Vale, won the republican nomination over Senator Ellis, Burns. Ivan E. Oakes, republican, was unopposed for representative. Davis and Oakes were both elected to the legislature.

There were four candidates on the republican primary ballot for district attorney. E. M. Blogett, Nyssa, was nominated over Bruce R. Kester, Ontario; Chas. K. Crandall and Geo. W. Hayes, both of Vale. The vote: Blodgett, 442; Kester, 388; Crandall, 278; Hayes, 253. Blogett was elected at the general election in November.

Other republican candidates nominated were John F. Weaver, county Judge, unopposed, 1,055. Jack D. Fairman was named for commissioner over C. W. Claggett by 13 votes. Fairman received 606 to 593 for Claggett. G. W. Dean was nominated for sheriff, defeating Jeff Froman 580 to 548, and 222 cast for A. Reed. Harry S. Sackett, Vale, was nominated for county clerk over W. H. Doolittle, of Ontario, by a vote of 778 to 522. Treasurer C. C. Mueller was unopposed for re-nomination. Andrew M. Graham was re-nominated for assessor.

In the democratic primary, H. Lee Noe, completing his second term for sheriff, was nominated for county judge over J. A. Lackey by a vote of 471 to 326, with 127 votes cast for W. Morfitt. Five candidates entered the race to succeed Noe as sheriff. Deputy Sheriff Charles W. Glenn was nominated by 392 votes, with 227 cast for Scott Davis; 177 for C. S. Leavitt; 82 for E. L. McElroy and 16 for B. H. Small. Thomas Jones, for clerk, I. F. Divin, for treasurer, and Dave Magill, for assessor, were named without opposition. J. M. Butler, of Ontario won a three-cornered race for commissioner with 493 votes to 180 for W. B. Hoxie, Nyssa, and 134 for Malloy.

In the November, 1924 election, Oakes, republican, was elected representative over Welch, democrat, 1,545 to 1,312. Noe, democrat, defeated Weaver, republican, 1,631 to 1,571 for county judge. Fairman, republican captured the commissionership by 1,628 votes to 1,378 for Butler. Glenn, democrat, making his first race for sheriff, won from Dean, republican, by a decisive majority. Sackett, republican, won from Jones, democrat, by 178 majority. Graham, republican, beat Magill, democrat, 1,503. Treasurer Mueller was re-elected over Divin, democrat, 1,586 to 1,382. Corner Payne was re-elected with the support of both parties.

A light vote was cast in the off-year of 1926. With two small precincts missing. Representative Jeff D. Billingsley, received 1,197 votes to 1,026 for A. A. Reed of Brogan. Sheriff C. W. Glenn, democrat, and County Clerk Harry S. Sackett, republican, met with no opposition for re-election for a second term. Frank Morgan, Nyssa, republican, was elected commissioner over P. Tensen, democrat, also of Nyssa.

In the 1928 election Circuit Judge Dalton Biggs, of the ninth district, was re-elected for a third term without opposition. J. D. Billingsley, Ontario, republican, who had served as representative, was unopposed for state senator from Malheur, Grant and Harney counties. He received 1,776 county votes. C. H. Oxman, republican, was elected representative from Malheur county over A. A. Reed, democrat, by a vote of 1,660 to 1,218. In a close race for district attorney, Bruce R. Kester, republican, won from Robert E. Lees, democrat, 1,484 to 1,476. Charles W. Glenn, the first sheriff to be elected for third term, won an easy victory over Arthur V. Cook, republican, by a vote of 2,216 to 929. County Clerk H. S. Sackett did not seek a third term and his deputy, Roy Daley, was nominated by the republicans and was elected by a write-in vote by the democrats. Treasurer C. C. Mueller, republican unopposed, received 2,043 votes. Effie M. Crail, republican, was re-elected school superintendent over Currer, democrat, 1,743 to 726. J. Edwin Johnson, republican, was re-elected surveyor over the democrat aspirant 1,250 to 1,020. Coroner R. O. Payne, again the choice of both parties, received 1,963 complimentary votes.

Judge Dalton Biggs, who had been elected for a third term in 1928 died not long thereafter of pneumonia and Governor Patterson, republican, appointed W. W. Wood, republican of Ontario, his successor.

In 1930, the most interesting race in the county was between Judge H. L. Noe, and David F. Graham. Graham unseated Noe by a majority of 194 votes. Of the 2,418 votes cast for this office, Graham, republican, received 1,306 to 1,112 for Noe, democrat. Republican C. H. Oxman, republican, was unopposed for re-election. He received 1,870. Ora Clark, republican, was re-elected commissioner without opposition, receiving 1,875 votes.

A number of political changes took place in 1932. In the republican primary R. M. Duncan, Burns, won the nomination from Senator J. D. Billingsley, Ontario, in the 22nd state senatorial district. Billingsley carried Malheur county 930 to 734. Duncan ran about 160 votes ahead in his home county of Harney, and carried Grant by 538. V. B. Staples, Ontario, was unopposed for representative at both the primary and general election.

Other republican candidates nominated at the primary were: District Attorney, Otis E. Smith, Ontario; Sheriff, Charles A. Powell, Ontario; Clerk, Roy Daley, Vale; Treasurer, Mrs. Ora C. Hope, widow of the late M. G. Hope, Vale; Assessor, Andrew M. Graham, Nyssa; Commissioner, J. D. Fairman, Harper; School Superintendent, Mrs. Effie M. Crail; Surveyor, Edwin Johnson, Vale. The republican primary vote: V. B. Staples, unopposed, 1,367; District Attorney, Otis Smith, Ontario, 606; Aubrey Fletcher, Vale, 547; John E. Garver, 427; Sheriff, C. A. Powell, 706; Ray E. Emmott, 413; A. V. Cook, 316; John Linehard, 158; William Peutz, 122; Treasurer, Mrs. Ora C. Hope, 942; John E. Bennett, 640; Assessor, A. M. Graham, 819; M.

E. Bain, 528; S. Humphrey, 418; School superintendent, Effie M. Crail, 1,003; Victoria Schweizer, 686; Surveyor, J. Edwin Johnson, 807; Ivan E. Oakes, 473; D. C. Slaght, 434.

Result of the democratic primary: District Attorney, Hugh M. Briggs, 572, Robert E. Leets, 267; Sheriff, C. W. Glenn, 519, Scott Davis, 331, Frank Brittingham, 34; Roy Daley, republican, received a write-in vote of 31 for clerk, and B. W. Mulkey, a write-in vote of 70. Mulkey declined the nomination. Daley's name was placed on the ballot. Murray R. Morton was nominated for assessor without opposition, receiving 573 votes. Mrs. Kathryn Claypool was unopposed for superintendent of schools and received 629 votes. No candidates was nominated for surveyor.

At the general election in November R. M. Duncan unopposed for state senator polled 2,434, V. B. Staples, unopposed, received 2,493. Hugh L. Biggs, son of the late Judge Dalton Biggs, was elected district attorney over E. Otis Smith, republican, by a vote of 2,291 to 1,180. C. W. Glenn, democrat, defeated C. W. Powell, republican, by a very large vote for sheriff. County Clerk Daley running on both tickets, received 3,000 votes. Mrs. Ora C. Hope, unopposed for treasurer, received 2,718 votes. Murray Morton, democrat, was elected assessor over the incumbent, Andrew Graham, republican, by a vote of 1,793 to 1,685. E. H. Brumbach, democrat, was chosen commissioner over the incumbent, J. D. Fairman, republican, by a vote of 1,912 to 1,517. Mrs. Kathryn Claypool, democrat, won over the incumbent, Mrs. Effie Crail, republican, school superintendent, by a vote of 1,837 to 1,756. J. Edwin Johnson, republican, running alone, received 2,833 votes for surveyor.

In the 1934 election Judge W. W. Wood, who was filling the position by appointment, was elected for a full term in the Ninth Judicial District at the May primary by defeating Chas. W. Ellis and Chas. Leonard, both of Harney County, by the substantial majority of 891. Wood carried the district by a vote of 2,642, with Ellis running second with 1,138 votes, and Leonard trailing with 502.

Representative V. B. Staples was unopposed in the republican primary. D. K. Mendenhall was nominated by the democrats. Staples was re-elected at the general election.

In the republican race for district attorney C. M. Crandall, of Vale, won from E. Otis Smith, of Ontario, by a narrow margin. The vote: Crandall, 595; Smith, 511. M. A. Biggs, uncle of District Attorney Hugh Biggs, was nominated by the democrats without opposition. Biggs defeated Crandall in the general election.

County Commissioner Ora E. Clark was re-nominated over John Medlin in the republican primary. The closest race of any office in the county was between H. E. Noah and John Molenaar for the democratic nomination. Clark defeated Noah in the general election.

Judge W. W. Wood died from cerebral hemorrhage December 2, 1934, being the second circuit judge of the Ninth District to die in office. Chas. W. Ellis, of Burns, who had ran second to Wood in the recent eletcion was named by the governor to succeed Wood.

Much interest was taken in both the primary and general eletcion of both parties in 1936, because of many aspirants for office. The closest races in both parties were for county commissioner. The closest was in the democratic primary between E. H. Brunback, of Big Bend, and John Molenaar, Ontario, which the latter won by the narrow margin of 14 votes. Almost as close was the three-cornered race for the same office in the republican primary when L. P. Peterson, of Vale, won over his nearest competitor, W. S. Skinner, of Jordan Valley, by a plurality of 18 votes.

County Judge David F. Graham was re-nominated by the republicans over Jack D. Fairman by a plurality of 206 in a three-cornered race, with D. C. Deming trailing Fairman by 164 votes. Graham received 760 votes, Fairman 554 and Deming 390.

State Senator R. M. Duncan, republican, Burns, was re-eletced for a second four year term, defeating C. W. Pratt, of Nyssa. Malheur County gave Duncan 806 votes to 679 for Pratt. Representative V. B. Staples was re-nominated by considerably more than a two to one vote over Carl Coad. Staples carried 36 of the 37 precincts in the county with a tie in the 37th. Staples was given 1,120 votes to 418 cast for Coad.

County Clerk Daley, although unable to make a campaign, because of ill health, was re-nominated over Chas. F. Howell by a 945 to 742 vote. After the election Daley became so ill he was forced to resign and former Clerk Harry S. Sackett was appointed to the position. Daley later died.

Mrs. Ora C. Hope was re-nominated for treasurer over Walter Marshall, of Vale, by a heavy vote. Jean Burrelle was nominated for assessor.

In the democratic primary Robt. E. Lees was nominated for state senator unopposed, as was also Oren Currey, of Juntura, for representative. Sheriff C. W. Glenn was unanimously re-nominated. Theron Beers, of Jordan Valley was unopposed for county judge. Assessor Murray R. Morton was re-nominated over Harry Looney by almost a three to one vote, of 736 to 253. When it appeared Morton was a sure winner a write-in campaign was started for Looney for county clerk; no candidate having filed on the democratic ticket for that office, and Looney was nominated.

There were three candidates for the non-partisan office of school superintendent, in which the incumbent Mrs. Kathryn Claypool received 1,034 votes, Albert B. Hopkins 1,310, Mrs. E. M. Crail 528. No candidate having received a majority, the two leading contenders, Mrs. Claypool and Mr. Hopkins' names were placed on the ballot at the general election.

In the general election November 3, 1936, State Senator R. M. Duncan, republican, was re-elected. Duncan carried both Grant and Harney. The

vote in Malheur County: Duncan, 1,297; Lees, democrat, 1,426; Rev. Floyd White, independent, of Nyssa, supporter of the Townsend plan, 1,417. Representative V. B. Staples, republican, running for a third term, won from Orren Currey, democrat, who had the Townsend support. The vote was Staples 2,045, Currey 1,925, in which Staples experienced his closest race.

County Judge David F. Graham was re-elected over Theron Beers, democrat, with 2,245 to 2,062. Commissioner L. R. Peterson won from John Molenaar, democrat, 2,060 to 1,962. Sheriff C. W. Glenn, democrat, seeking a fourth term, won in a runaway race from A. V. Cook, republican, by a vote of 3,252 to 1,097. Glenn carried all but one precinct in the county, that of South Nyssa. Cook was city marshal of Nyssa at that time. County clerk H. S. Sackett, republican, won from Harry Looney, democrat, by a vote of 2,224 to 1,939. Assessor M. R. Morton, democrat, defeated Mrs. Jean Burrelle, republican, 2,308 to 1,692. Mrs. Burrelle had been Assessor Morton's office assistant.

Another close race was that of the non-partisan office of school superintendent in which the incumbent, Supt. Kathryn Claypool, won by receiving 2,154 votes to 2,022 cast for Hopkins.

Three unopposed republican candidates, Circuit Judge C. W. Ellis, County Treasurer Mrs. Ora E. Hope and County Surveyor J. Edwin Johnson received practically all the votes cast for their offices. Following the death of Coroner R. O. Payne Dr. R. A. Tacke was named his successor.

Like the 1936 election the 1938 primary produced some very close contests. In the republican primary there were three candidates running for district attorney, Max Taggart, Martin Gallagher and Jos. D. Lane, with Taggart winning the nomination. The vote, Taggart, 541; Gallagher, 455; Lane, 252. Allen M. Biggs, democrat, the incumbent, was nominated without opposition, receiving 894 votes.

Representative Virgil B. Staples again defeated Carl Coad for the republican nomination by the overwhelming vote of 1,028 to 300. No candidate filed on the democratic ticket and Staples was nominated by that party with a write-in vote of 35.

Chas. Marshall, of Nyssa, won the republican nomination for commissioner in a four-cornered race. The vote resulted: Marshall, 511; L. K. Bullock, Vale, 315; C. Y. Chester, Harper, 274; Norman McKenzie, Three Forks, 262, C. S. Harris, unopposed for the democratic nomination, received 808 votes.

Dr. R. A. Tacke, of Ontario, appointed coroner in January, 1934, following the death of Dr. R. O. Payne, was nominated on the republican ticket with 1,088 votes and endorsed by the democrats with a write-in vote.

At the general election November 8, 1948, Max S. Taggart, republican, defeated the incumbent, M. A. Biggs, democrat, by a vote of 2,212 to 1,902. The county vote exceeded the 4,000 mark. Two republican candidates, V.

B. Staples and Dr. Tacke, for coroner, both nominated by both parties received very heavy votes. Chas. Marshall, republican, defeated C. S. Harris, for commissioner, 2,347 to 1,442.

Circuit Judge Chas. W. Ellis was stricken with paralysis while at lunch December 20, 1939, and died three hours later at Holy Rosary hospital. Ellis was the third judge of the Ninth District to die in succession in office. Capt. R. M. Duncan, of Burns, was appointed by Gov. Sprague as his successor. Duncan at the time was president of the state senate.

In the 1940 primary election James N. Jones, Malheur County stockman and banker, received the republican nomination for state senator in the 22nd district over two other contenders. The Malheur County vote: J. N. Jones, Juntura, 898; C. M. Crandall, Vale, 404; John W. Porter, Long Creek, 215. Republican V. B. Staples of the 31st district, unopposed for the republican nomination, received 1,322 votes.

Collis Carter defeated Chas. G. Belgrade for nomination of sheriff 937 to 353. There were three candidates for commissioner, which was won by Irwin Troxell, of Ontario, from Commissioner L. P. Peterson, of Vale, and Zac Walker. Troxwell received 848 votes, Peterson 478, Walker 208. A. P. Hendrix was nominated for assessor over Audry Ward 790 to 631. County Treasurer Mrs. Ora C. Hope, unopposed for re-election, received a complimentary vote of 1,355. County Surveyor J. Edwin Johnson, also unopposed, received 1,248. Both were endorsed by the democratic voters at the primary, which was contingent of election.

In the democratic primary Victor J. Benoe, running alone for nomination of state senator, received 882 votes. Anthony Yturri received a write-in vote of 33 for state representative. Sheriff C. W. Glenn was re-nominated over Robt. L. Davis by a vote of 959 to 462. Assessor Murray Morton was re-nominated over three aspirants. The vote: Morton, 558; Grover Francis, 425; John McNulty, 224; Jas. Graham, 193. The democratic race for commissioner resulted in a tie vote of 646 between John Molenaar, of Ontario, and Harry Wells, of Vale. In casting lots Molenaar won the nomination.

In the November 5, 1940, the race for state senator, J. N. Jones, republican, carried all three counties in the district. The vote in Malheur County. Jones, 3,189; L. V. Benoe, democrat, 2,179; Harney County gave Jones 1,100 and Benoe 871. Jones carried Grant by 1,278 to 871 for Benoe; making the total vote in the district, Jones 5,567, Benoe, 3878. Republican V. B. Staples, was re-elected by a vote of 3,062, 378 for Anthony Yturri.

Sheriff Chas. W. Glenn, democrat, was re-elected for a fourth term over Collis Carter, republican, by a nearly two to one vote: Glenn, 3,810; Carter, 1,938. Ed P. Hendricks, republican, won from Assessor Morton, democrat, running for a third term, 2,827 to 2,669. Irwin Troxell, was elected commissioner, defeating John Molenaar, democrat, 3,211 to 2,262.

County Clerk Harry S. Sackett, County Treasurer Ora C. Hope and

Surveyor J. Edwin Johnson, all republicans, were unopposed for re-election. Mrs. Kathryn Claypool had no opposition for re-election to the non-partisan office of County School Superintendent.

With only two contests for public office in the county—both in the republican party—very little interest was taken in the 1942 off-year primary. The total republican vote cast in the county was 1,426, with 870 democratic ballots cast. The two contests were for county judge and commissioner. In the race for county judge three names appeared on the ballot. Judge David F. Graham, seeking a third term, was opposed by Commissioner Irwin Troxell and Surveyor J. Edwin Johnson. A close race developed between Graham and Troxell, in which Graham led by a plurality of 75 votes. Graham received a total of 671 votes, Troxell 546 and Johnson 188. Chas. S. Leavitt, who at the time was a deputy sheriff under Sheriff Glenn, was unopposed for the democratic nomination.

The republican race for commissioner was very close between the incumbent, Chas. Marshall, and Fred Burgess, with five votes determining the result. Marshall won with 655 votes compared with 650 cast for Burgess. Clarence Barrett was unopposed on the democratic ticket.

Representative Staples was unopposed and received the nomination of both parties. District Attorney Max S. Taggart was unopposed for the republican nomination. No candidate filed on the democratic ticket but M. A. Biggs was nominated by a write-in vote. Biggs got 19 votes, Taggart 18 and Joe Lane received 15.

With more contests in the general election more interest was aroused. In the county the contests were for district attorney, county judge and commissioner. Republican Staples, running on both tickets, received 2,307 votes. M. A. Biggs, democrat, defeated Max Taggart, republican, for district attorney with 1,510 votes compared to 1,442. County Judge D. F. Graham was defeated by Chas. S. Leavitt, democrat, by a vote of 1,547 to 1,444. Commissioner Chas. S. Marshall, republican, won over Clarence Barrett, democrat, in a close race by a vote of 1,427 to 1,400. Coroner R. A. Take, endorsed by both parties, was re-elected by a very large complimentary vote.

On August 4, 1943, Judge Robt. M. Duncan, of the Ninth Judicial District, died of a heart ailment at his home in Burns, the fourth circuit judge of the district to die in rotation in office. Judge Dalton Biggs, the first to pass away, succumbed in 1928. His successor, Wells W. Wood, was summoned by death six years later. Judge Chas. W. Ellis, Judge Wood's successor, died after serving five years, and Judge R. M. Duncan, Judge Ellis' successor, passed to the beyond after filling the office for four years. Gov. Earl Snell named Robt. D. Lytle, Vale republican, to fill out Duncan's unexpired term.

November 10, 1943, County Judge Chas. S. Leavitt died after a brief illness of only a week, attributed to heart ailment. He was a grandson of

former County Commissioner Geo. W. Blanton. Judge Leavitt was the only county judge to die in office and the third county official called from duty by death. Sheriff J. D. Locey was the first to die in office and Coroner R. O. Payne the second. Following the death of Judge Leavitt Gov. Snell appointed County Commissioner Irwin Troxell to the judgeship.

In the 1944 election year a neck and neck race was staged for the office of Circuit Judge for the Ninth District, which was decided at the primary election between M. A. Biggs, democrat, and the incumbent, Judge Robt. D. Lytle, republican, in which Biggs emerged the winner. M. A. Biggs, a brother of former Circuit Judge Dalton Biggs, carried Malheur County by a majority of 423 and his former home county of Harney by 24. Lytle led in Grant by 191 votes. An unofficial count gave Biggs a majority of 261 in the district. Biggs carried his home town of Ontario by approximately three to one, while Lytle's home town of Vale gave him about the same margin. Biggs carried Nyssa by four votes.

State Senator J. N. Jones, republican, was unopposed for re-nomination. No one filed on the democratic ticket. Representative V. B. Staples, republican, was re-nominated by a large majority over Robt. Gilerist of Ontario.

In the race for the republican nomination for County Judge between Judge Irwin Troxell and former Judge D. F. Graham, Troxell received 941 votes to Graham's 780—giving Troxell the nomination by a majority of 161. Judge Troxell carried his home town of Ontario by a large vote and Graham carried his home town of Vale. Nyssa gave Troxell a majority.

John Medlin, of Harper, who had been appointed commissioner to succeed Irwin Troxell, when Troxell was appointed county judge, following the death of Judge Leavitt, won the republican nomination over Fred Burgess, of Vale. No candidate filed for the democratic nomination.

Sheriff C. W. Glenn was again the unanimous choice of the democrats for re-nomination as was also County Clerk H. S. Sackett by the republicans for re-nomination. Mrs. Ora C. Hope, County Treasurer, was also the unanimous choice in the republican primary and was endorsed by the democrats. Assessor Ed Hendricks was re-nominated by the republicans and former Assessor Murray Morton received the democratic nomination.

In the 1944 general election Senator James N. Jones, republican, of the 22nd district, and Representative Virge B. Staples, republican, of the 31st district, were unopposed for re-election.

On the non-partisan ballot M. Allen Biggs, candidate for circuit judge of the Ninth District, and Mrs. Kathryn Claypool, running for re-election to the position of County School Supt., were unopposed. County Judge Irwin Troxell, Commission J. C. Medlin, Sheriff Chas. W. Glenn, County Clerk Harry S. Sackett, Treasurer Ora C. Hope, Surveyor J. Edwin Johnson were unopposed for re-election. The only contest for a county office was between

Assessor Ed Hendricks and former Assessor Murry Morton in which Hendricks was re-elected.

As only one real contest developed in the May 17, 1945 primary election in the county a light vote was polled. This was for the office of district attorney between E. Otis Smith, of Ontario, and Chas. Swann, of Vale, on the republican ticket which was won by the latter by an even 100 votes, Swann received 1,037 votes and Smith 937, Swann won the democratic nomination by a write-in vote of 89.

Two aspirants, Alvan Goodell, of Nyssa, and W. S. Skinner of Jordan Valley, filed for the republican nomination for commissioner, but Skinner later withdrew. Despite his withdrawal, Skinner, a prominent Jordan Valley pioneer, received a large complementary vote. Of the votes cast Goodell got 1,001 and Skinner 794. D. C. Good, of the Malheur Butte vicinity, running alone for the democratic nomination, received 1,170.

V. B. Staples, who had represented Malheur County in the lower branch of the state legislature for the past fourteen years, declined another term. Martin P. (Buck) Gallagher, whose father, P. J. Gallagher, had represented the district for two terms, announced his candidacy for the office on the republican ticket. Gallagher, unopposed on the republican ticket, received 1,688 votes, and also won the democratic nomination by a write-in vote.

Most interest in the primary election centered on a proposal to create a Malheur County People's Utility District, which failed to carry by about a five to two margin. The vote was 1,090 for and 2,578 against.

In the general election the only contest for a county office was that of commissioner, in which Alva P. Goodell, republican, was elected by 2,451 to 1,597 votes for C. C. Good, democrat. Three republican candidates, having the endorsement of the democrats in the primary, Martin P. Gallagher for representative, Chas. W. Swann for district attorney and Dr. R. A. Tacke, for coroner; received the following vote: Gallagher, 3,188; Swann, 3,366; Tacke, 3,300. For the second time in this election year the Malheur County voters rejected the People's Utility proposal by more than a two to one vote of 900 for the measure and 2,448 against it.

At the May 21, 1948 primary election State Senator J. N. Jones was defeated for re-nomination on the republican ticket by Mayor Elmo Smith of Ontario. Smith carried this county with 1,439 votes to 1,030 cast for Jones. Dr. W. J. Weese, Ontario's popular pioneer physician, unopposed for the democratic nomination, received 1,163 votes in this county.

Representative Martin P. Gallagher, of Ontario, lost to Vern Wilson, of lower Willow Creek, on the republican ticket. Wilson received 1,306 votes to 1,165 for Gallagher, and was nominated by the democrats with a write-in vote.

Chas. W. Glenn, of Vale, Malheur County's popular sheriff who for 24 years had filled that important position, declined another term. Follow-

ing his announcement of retirement five candidates, four republicans and one democrat aspired to be his successor in office. The republicans were John Elfring, Vale; Frank J. Leavitt, Ontario; Orville Maze, chief of police of Nyssa, and Arthur V. Cook, a former police chief of Nyssa. Elfring received more votes than the combined vote of his three rivals. The vote: Elfring 1,407, Maze 401, Cook 397, Leavitt 326. L. Davis, a former Ontario policeman, running alone on the democratic ticket, got 1,013.

County Clerk Harry S. Sackett, republican, unopposed for renomination received 2,277 votes, the largest cast for any candidate in the county, and a democratic write-in vote of 86, also the largest. County Treasurer Ora C. Hope, received the second largest vote cast, 2,192, and was also endorsed by the democrats by a write-in vote.

Five republicans filed on the ballot for commissioner, which nomination was won by G. A. Masterson, of Juntura. The vote: Masterson, 996; Frank Hopper, Oregon Slope, 476; Chas. Keplinger, Vale, 435; Geo. Carlson, Vale, 380; Dale Sinclair, Jordan Valley, 177. Masterson was nominated by the democrats by 44 write-in votes.

Assessor John Koopman, who had been appointed to that position following the resignation of Assessor Ed Hendricks in 1947, filed for a return to that office on the democratic ticket. Murry R. Morton, a former assessor, filed on the republican ticket. Both were unopposed for nomination.

No candidate filed for the non-partisan office of school superintendent. But the incumbent, Mrs. Katheryn Claypool, who has filled the office since 1930, was re-nominated by her friends.

The official vote of Malheur County in the general election of November 2, 1948 revealed that 5,960 legal voters went to the polls. The increased number of votes cast over the last previous general election in 1896 was 1,805, when 4,155 votes were cast.

At the November 1948 election, Elmo Smith, republican, was elected state senator over Dr. W. J. Weese, democrat. Weese carried two of the three counties, Malheur by 2,840 to 2,817, and Harney by over 200 majority, but this lead of the prominent pioneer doctor was overcome by the heavy republican vote in Grant County where he was not so well known. Vern Wilson, republican, whose name appeared on both ballots, for representative, received 4,472 votes.

John C. Elfering, republican, was elected sheriff by defeating R. L. Davis, democrat, by a vote of 3,427 to 2,179. Assessor John Koopman, democrat, was retained in office by a vote of 3,432 to 2,009 cast for M. R. Morton, republicans. Three republicans, County Clerk Harry S. Sackett, Treasurer Ora C. Hope, G. A. Masterson for commissioner, all with democratic endorsement received the following vote: Sackett, 4,814; Hope, 4,688; Masterson, 4,535.

Of the present county officials, County Clerk H. S. Sackett has seen the longest service in office since the retirement of Sheriff C. W. Glenn, January 1, 1948, who was for two decades in office. Mr. Sackett has served as county clerk for over 21 years. Ranking next to Mr. Sackett in line of service are the two lady county officials, Mrs. Ora C. Hope, treasurer; and Mrs. Katheryn Claypool, school superintendent, each with more than 16 years in office. Both were first elected in 1932, Coroner R. A. Tacke is next in line with over 14 years, having assumed office January 1, 1934. County Judge Irwin Troxell ranks fifth with seven years service, two as commissioner and the past five years in his present position. District Attorney Charles Swann, Commissioners Alvan Goodell, and G. A. Masterson, Assessor John Koopman, Sheriff John Effering, Representative Vern Wilson are serving their first terms.



CHAPTER 32

OWYHEE AND VALE GOVERNMENT IRRIGATION PROJECTS

*Now comes the reaper to garner the harvest,
Reaping the grain that in springtime was sown;
The planter has passed on, unmissed by the reaper,
And is only remembered by what he has done.*

—*Author Unknown.*

The United States Government reclamation law was enacted in 1902 to aid in the reclamation of the arid lands of the West. The people of Oregon at once took steps to avail themselves of the benefits provided in this law to further the state's development in the reclamation of arid lands. The first Oregon Irrigation Congress convened in Portland in November, 1902, immediately following the date the law was to go into effect. The delegates to the convention sent from Malheur county were: Will R. King, Edward H. Test, C. W. Mallett, C. H. Brown, T. W. Halliday, I. W. Hope, M. G. Hope, W. C. Thomson, J. W. McCulloch, F. W. Metcalf, J. A. Lackey, W. H. Pullen, C. E. Belding and A. A. Brown. Most of these men were large and above the average weight. According to the Portland *Oregonian*, the average weight of the "stalwart Malheur county delegation" was 184 pounds. King was the tallest and heaviest of the delegation. Halliday was quite fleshy. Both men weighed well over 200 pounds. Most of the delegates were men of ability with a thorough knowledge of irrigation matters. Malheur county was farther advanced at that time in irrigation development than any other county in the state.

Harney county was represented by Dalton Biggs, William Farre, I. S. Geer, M. Fitzgerald, W. N. Shilling, N. U. Carpenter and F. M. Geer. Approximately 275 delegates were in attendance from various counties in the state. The president, secretary and executive chairman of the national irrigation congress and government irrigation experts were also in attendance.

The various delegations held caucuses Monday, November 24, the day before the congress convened, at which measures were framed to be submitted to the convention. The convention organized on Tuesday, November 25, by electing A. H. Devers, of Portland, president; Will R. King, of Ontario, vice-president; J. M. Moore, of Portland, secretary; and W. T. Wright, of

Union, treasurer. Mayor George H. Williams, of Portland, delivered the address of welcome. Congressman-elect J. N. Williamson, of the second district—which included all of Eastern Oregon—and F. E. Beach, president of the Portland board of trade, also addressed the meeting.

The committee on credentials were W. G. Thomson, Malheur; O. L. Miller, Baker; E. J. Frazier, Lane; C. W. Elkins, Crook; and Samuel Connell, of Multnomah county. The resolutions committee consisted of seventeen members, each from different counties. J. W. McCulloch represented Malheur and Dalton Biggs represented Harney. The legislative committee also consisted of seventeen members.

Organization was perfected Wednesday by adopting by-laws and electing additional officers. Resolutions were adopted commending all irrigation projects in the state and a proposed immigration bureau at Portland. A telegram was sent to F. H. Newell, chief engineer of the U. S. Reclamation Service at Washington, D. C., requesting that department "to set aside and apportion to the State of Oregon its share of the funds in the United States treasury, which is available for the reclamation of arid lands in this state."

The Wednesday morning session of the convention was addressed by A. P. Davis, division engineer, and A. E. Chandler, assistant division engineer of the reclamation service. Governor-elect George E. Chamberlain and Governor T. T. Geer also addressed the delegates. H. B. Maxson, secretary of the national irrigation congress, also spoke.

At the afternoon session the convention allowed each county ten minutes to present propositions for the location of possible irrigation systems to be built within the confines of the county. O. L. Miller spoke for Baker county; Will R. King for Malheur; Dalton Biggs for Harney; G. T. Baldwin for Klamath; T. G. Hailey for Umatilla and Morrow; G. W. Barnes for Crook; and J. S. Howard for Jackson county.

W. R. King said in part: "Give us irrigation and there is no county in the United States that can beat Malheur for hay. We can produce ten tons of alfalfa to the acre. Malheur has three great projects:

"First—On the Owyhee river is a project that will reclaim 50,000 acres of land and all the materials are there except the cement to make the dam. It can be carried out for \$150,000.

"Second—The Malheur river. From this river, which is one of the greatest basins in Oregon, ten square miles of territory could be reached, and 30,000 acres more could be reclaimed than on the Owyhee. Twenty thousand and more acres could be reached by either project.

"Third—From Williwow creek some 30,000 more acres can be reclaimed.

"These three projects will reclaim in all about 150,000 acres."

Dalton Biggs, speaking for Harney county, said there was about 500,000 acres of arid land in that county. Of this, 250,000 acres was govern-

ment land and could be irrigated. He mentioned a location on the Silvies river as an ideal dam site.

At this convention a permanent organization was perfected to work for government aid in the installation and conducting feasible irrigation systems within the state where the projects would prove the most beneficial.

The second meeting of the association convened in Baker City on the first Monday in June, 1903. The second annual meeting was held the same year in Pendleton in November, 1903. Ontario entertained the annual convention in 1906 and Vale was the host in 1909.

Immediately following the return of the Malheur county delegates from the first convention held in Portland in November, 1902, steps were at once taken to form a Water Users' Association for the purpose of securing government aid.

The Salt river irrigation project in Arizona was among the very first to interest the government. Through government cooperation a member of the Water Users' Association of the Salt River Project came from Arizona to aid Malheur county farmers in taking proper steps in organizing to obtain government aid. He met with local representatives in Ontario, Vale and Nyssa and in a short time the Malheur county Water Users' Association was perfected and negotiations entered into with the United States Government Bureau of Reclamation. The Oregon State Chamber of Commerce, the Portland Chamber of Commerce and the "On To Oregon, Inc.," heartily cooperated with local civic organizations in Malheur county in working for government aid.

As the result of these united activities the government became interested in the Owyhee irrigation project. John G. Whistler was one of the first government reclamation engineers assigned to the Owyhee project with headquarters in Ontario in 1903.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE OWYHEE PROJECT

The first high line ditch had been promoted by E. H. Test, William Miller and Thomas Jones the year before the U. S. Government enacted the reclamation law. C. F. Foster, of Baker, the engineer who surveyed this first high line project, recommended that the conversion dam for the reservoir to store the waters of the Owyhee river be built at Red butte. This damsite was the first considered by the government engineers. It was located some forty-five miles above the "Hole-in-the-Ground," the site finally chosen by the U. S. Government Reclamation engineers.

The "Hole-in-the-Ground" damsite was first located by Chief Engineer George Binkley, of the Arnold Construction Company, of Chicago, the second company to launch a privately-owned high line irrigation project from the Owyhee. The Arnold Company established headquarters at Nyssa in



—U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Photo.

Owyhee Reservoir and Dam

1909. When the Arnold Company, a private corporation entered the field, the U. S. reclamation engineers withdrew. The policy of the government was not to infringe on projects where private enterprise was interested, or compete with them in any way.

Following the withdrawal of the Arnold Company, efforts were again made by local people to seek government aid to finance the Owyhee project.

They were greatly encouraged when Judge Will R. King was named chief counsel and a director in the U. S. Reclamation Department by President Woodrow Wilson in 1912. Judge King was living in Ontario when the government reclamation bill was passed in 1902 and took a leading part in the effort to obtain government aid for the Owyhee and Vale projects. For the next ten years, following the organization of the government reclamation service, he had labored diligently to secure government aid for these two projects. Upon assuming office of chief counsel and a director of the reclamation service one of his greatest ambitions was to secure government aid for these two projects. But in this effort he was foiled by a small clique who were sponsoring a third privately owned enterprise.

The revival of government interest in the Owyhee and Vale projects is mostly due to E. C. Van Petten and a small group of Malheur county citizens whose untiring efforts finally resulted in the first definite action by Congress in 1924. Mr. Van Petten, at that time president of the Ontario Commercial Club, made five trips to Washington, D. C., to appear before the irrigation committees of both branches at five consecutive sessions of Congress in the interest of these two projects. J. R. Blackaby and P. J. Gallagher, of Ontario, both made special trips to the national capital for the same purpose. Among others worthy of personal mention for their efforts to obtain government aid for these projects are: C. H. Oxman, chairman of the Vale project; Robert D. Lytle, and Leo H. Schmidt, of Vale; H. C. Boyer, W. H. Doolittle and W. J. Pinney, of Ontario; C. C. Hunt, Frank T. Morgan and Dr. J. J. Sarazin, of Nyssa. Many other public spirited citizens of the county contributed their money and time in interesting the government to take action. Ontarians contributed \$23,000 in the interest of the cause.

Congressmen and senators from Oregon, Idaho and Utah took leading parts in the hard battle to secure government aid for the two projects. Most prominent among them were Senator Charles L. McNary and Congressman N. J. Sinnott, of Oregon; and Congressman Walter M. Pierce, who was elected from the Eastern Oregon district following the death of Congressman Sinnott. They were ably assisted in the fight by Congressman Burton L. French, of Idaho, and Congressman Don B. Colton, of Utah.

The Owyhee project, built at a cost of \$18,000,000, covers 123,000 acres of fertile land. The Vale project, costing \$4,000,000, supplies water for 31,000 acres of just as productive land. Thus these twin projects, which join near the Malheur river in the vicinity of Vale, built at a total cost of \$22,000,000 supply irrigation water for 154,000 acres. There were approximately 100,000 acres of raw land under the two projects awaiting settlement and improvement at the time of their completion. Although adjoining each other the Owyhee and Vale projects are two distinct irrigation systems. The Vale project gets its supply of water from the Malheur river

and the Owyhee project from the Owyhee river. About one-third of the Owyhee project extends into Owyhee county, Idaho.

The Owyhee dam, built on top of an extinct volcano, is thirty miles southwest of Nyssa. This dam, at the time of its dedication by Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, then the Secretary of the Interior, on July 17, 1932, was the highest irrigation dam in the world. The top of the dam is 530 feet above the lowest point in bedrock and impounds 740,000 acre feet of water, forming a lake fifty-two miles in length nestling among the towering hills around the Owyhee canyon. The white gravel used in building the dam "gives the appearance of a marble monolith wedged into the towering walls of basalt." This is the first dam built in which an elevator was installed.

The Warm Springs reservoir, located in Warm Springs valley, and from which the Vale project receives part of its irrigation water, is located sixty miles west of Vale. The reservoir has a storage capacity of 130,000 acre feet of water. The Warm Springs dam and reservoir was built by the Pacific Live Stock Company in the early 1920's before the United States reclamation law was inaugurated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. An agreement was entered into whereby the government acquired a half interest in the Warm Springs reservoir in exchange for the installation of a drainage system to be built by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation.

The Owyhee project was authorized by an act of Congress on December 5, 1924, with an appropriation of \$315,000 for investigation and the starting of construction work, following a report by Dr. Elwood Mead, Commissioner of Reclamation. His report covered the engineering, agricultural and economic feasibilities of the project. The construction work was outlined in a report by J. B. Bond and R. J. Newell, U. S. Reclamation engineers submitted January 24, 1925.

The following quotation is from a History of the Owyhee Project issued by the United States Reclamation Service under date of January 1, 1928:

"The Owyhee Project has been under consideration for over twenty-five years. . . . in 1903, 1904 and 1905, immediately following the organization of the United States Reclamation Service in 1902, topographic surveys were made of the irrigable lands under the Owyhee and Red butte damsites. Diamond drill tests made at these sites and at several diversion damsites near the mouth of the canyon of the Owyhee gave encouraging results and focused attention upon these locations. Irrigation development in the Jordan valley nearby may have influenced the selection of these upstream storage sights as it was not until 1909 that investigations by Arnold and Company led to consideration of the 'Hole-in-the-Ground' site for diversion purposes."

Records compiled by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation reveal that during the period dating from 1903 to 1927 that at least twenty-one engineering reports were submitted by government engineers. Between 1924 and 1927 there were three land classification reports. During 1926 and 1927 there were three board of engineers' reports, and in 1927 one recommendation for the construction of a railroad to the damsite at the "Hole-in-the-Ground."

F. A. Banks was appointed construction engineer for the Owyhee project on November 17, 1926. Following investigation and approval of the damsite and other work, bids for the construction from Nyssa of the railroad up the Owyhee river to the "Hole-in-the-Ground" were opened August 16, 1927. The contract for the building of the railroad was awarded to the General Construction Company, of Seattle, Washington, for \$345,301.50.

The damsite selected for the Owyhee reservoir is located on the site of an extinct volcano, which according to geologists has not been active since the year Columbus discovered America. There was some question as to the feasibility of erecting this huge dam on an earth fault until scientific reports were filed by geologists. Dr. Charles P. Berkey, an eminent geologist who inspected the damsite in 1925, is one of the authorities upon whose knowledge the above statement is based. I also quote from a report submitted by Dr. F. L. Ransome, professor of economic geology, California Institute of Technology, at Pasadena, September 22, 1927:

"I can see no probability that there will be any movement under the 'Hole-in-the-Ground' damsite during the next two or three centuries."

The Owyhee project was designated a primary project in January, 1928, and in that month work was started on the railroad to the "Hole-in-the-Ground" damsite where a government camp had been established.

Bids were advertised for the construction of an arch-gravity type dam based on the recommendations of a board of government engineers composed of D. C. Henny, A. J. Wiley, C. H. Paul, F. A. Banks, and J. L. Savage. Seven bids were submitted. The bids were opened at Nyssa on June 7, 1928. The contract for the construction of the dam was awarded to the General Construction Company, whose bid was the lowest, the amount being \$3,198,779. The highest bid was \$4,707,365. The contract for construction was executed June 16, 1928, and work was begun on the dam July 14. The contract called for the completion of the dam in 1933.

During the early months of 1929 work was started on the spillway and diversion tunnel. On July 9, 1929, an official visit was made to the damsite by Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Secretary of the Interior, Dr. Elwood Mead, Commissioner of Reclamation; R. F. Walter, Chief Engineer; and I. L. Patterson, then Governor of Oregon.

On August 7, 1929, the waters of the Owyhee river were diverted through the tunnel, leaving the river-bed practically dry at the damsite to permit construction work on the dam. By the end of 1929 the building of the dam was 27 per cent completed.

Early in 1930, construction work was started on the tunnels and roads, which work continued throughout the year. Some concrete work was done on the dam during the early part of 1930, including the fault zone, which was completed July 15. On September 23 work was started on the "Big Pour," also the pouring of concrete for the dam proper. By the end of 1930

the General Construction Company's dam contract was 51 per cent completed, which was a little behind schedule, as 53 per cent of the time estimated for completion had elapsed. Other contracts including the tunnel, were progressing approximately on time.

The following paragraph is from the 1931 Government Project history:

"During 1931 the Owyhee dam was carried from 51 per cent to 91 per cent completion. The bulk of the concreting was done, ring gate and other appurtenances partly installed, and coffer dams removed."

Work on the tunnels were nearing completion and the attention of the government engineers was now being turned toward the various phases of the distribution system. Again quoting from the 1931 project history:

"The project cost for the year exceeded \$4,000,000. At the conclusion of 1931 over \$9,000,000 worth of construction was under contract and \$8,525,000 was expended on this \$18,000,000 project."

The dam proper was completed in 1932 and dedication ceremonies taking place at the damsite on July 17, 1932. Other phases of this gigantic irrigation enterprise were in various stages of completion while some were already completed. At this stage the project as a whole was considered 60 per cent completed, at an expenditure of \$10,800,000. During 1932 the Government Project headquarters were moved from the Owyhee damsite to Ontario.

Quoting from the Government records of the 1933 History of the Owyhee Project:

"The year 1933 marked a transition period in the Owyhee project. During the year the large contracts for Tunnels No. 1 and No. 5 were finished; the Tunnel No. 1 intake controlling works was started in January and carried to completion in July; the earthwork and tunnels on the North canal between Tunnel Canyon and Owyhee river were finished and ready for the construction of canal lining, bench flumes, and siphons which were let in November, 1933, and January, 1934. Other extensive contracts on the North canal, awarded during the year, consisting of the five mile stretch of canal between Owyhee river and Mitchell butte with all structures including Rock Springs creek siphon Tunnel No. 4, and Mitchell butte lateral turnout; the earthwork, culverts, and turnouts and a few other minor structures on the main North canal between Malheur butte on Malheur river and on the Mitchell butte's lateral connecting with the Ontario-Nyssa (Shoestring canal).

"The project is 64 per cent complete, \$11,400,000 having been expended to date."

Quoting from the Project History of 1934:

"The project is still in progress of construction; no deliveries of water through works constructed for the project have been made . . .

"The year 1934 marked the completion of the North canal to the syphon across the Malheur river valley and the completion of the Kingman and Mitchell butte laterals and sub-laterals to the point where a small amount of work remains to be done to permit supply about 10,000 acres with water during the 1935 irrigation season."

Thus it was the year 1935 that the first water for irrigation was supplied to farmers by the Owyhee government irrigation system. Delivery of irrigation water through the Kingman Kolony canals began May 1 of that year. May 10 was the date of the first delivery of water to the new lands

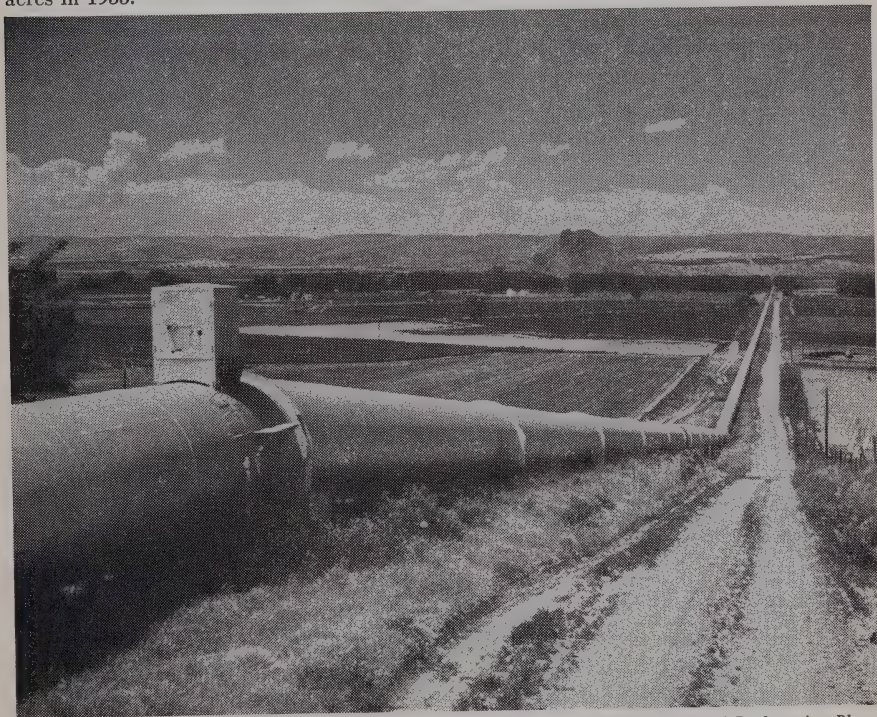
in the Kingman Irrigation District. On May 18 delivery of water to lands through the Mitchell butte laterals started.

Members of the Civilian Conservation Corps from Ontario Camp BR-42 and Nyssa Camp BR-43 were assigned to work on the Owyhee project October 19, 1935. They are credited with completing some valuable and important work on the project.

The North canal, with its lateral system, was practically completed by the end of 1936. The South canal was also completed, but because of lack of funds work on the latter under that system was conducted on a small scale. Work was also under way on the rehabilitation of the Snow-Moody and other pumping plants that supplied water on old lands on the lower Dead Ox flat.

Quoting from the government project records of the year 1936:

"The irrigation acreage in the Owyhee Irrigation District, which includes nearly all the new lands irrigated to date, was 6,771 acres in 1936, compared to 3,500 acres in 1935."



—U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Photo.

Siphon, four and one-half miles long and seven feet in diameter which is the longest siphon in the world, carries water from the Owyhee River Reservoir across the Malheur River Valley to irrigate land north of Ontario on Dead Ox Flat. The Malheur Butte, near the base of which the Malheur river flows, is shown in the background.

Construction work was becoming relatively unimportant in 1937, as is noted by project history, but operation and maintenance work was increasing as more land under the Owyhee government system was being brought into cultivation. Settlement on the new lands under the project was greatly increasing. The history noted that the water supply was adequate to meet all irrigation demands for 1937 with a sufficient storage in the reservoir to insure an ample supply of water for the 1938 season.

During 1938 all contract construction work on the canals and laterals to the lands under the project were completed. The Owyhee Ditch pumping plant was nearing completion by the end of that year. Government forces continued construction work necessary for the completion of the system. The water supply in 1938 was again sufficient to meet all requirements with an adequate amount held in storage for the 1939 season.

Again quoting from the project history for the year 1939:

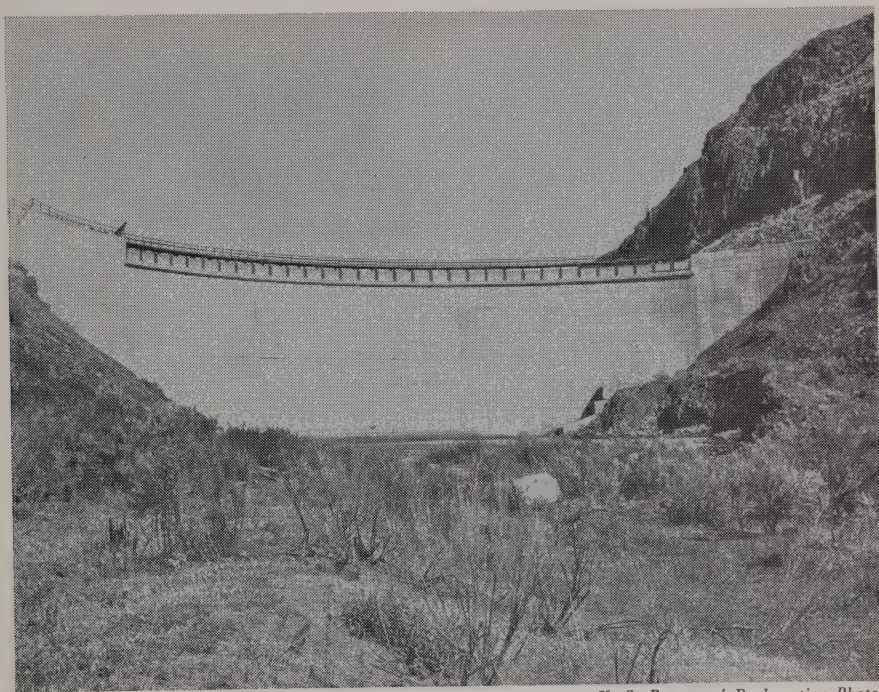
"With the completion of the Slide laterals in 1939, water became available to all irrigable lands of the project. The completion of the Owyhee Ditch pumping plant and the Mule creek drains finished all contemplated construction by contract, though it may be decided to construct some drains by the method in the future. The CCC under the supervision of engineers and inspectors of the Bureau of Reclamation are working to complete the rehabilitation of the irrigation systems for the old lands of the project. Construction of drains is being continued when government maintenance draglines are available to excavate them, but need for drainage continues to develop."

Under the heading of "Future Work Proposed," the history listed a number of unfinished jobs to complete the project, including irrigable area surveys, continued improvement of the canal and lateral system, work on wasteway channels. Construction work on the entire Owyhee Project was completed in 1940 with a capability of supplying sufficient irrigation water to cover all the 123,000 acres of land served by this gigantic irrigation system. The cost of the huge dam for the Owyhee "Hole-in-the-Ground" reservoir is placed at \$6,000,000. Seven and one-half miles of tunnel was completed at a cost of \$4,000,000. The rest of the \$18,000,000 used in completing the project was expended on canals, flumes, laterals, etc., built to carry water to irrigate the vast body of land supplied by the enormous project.

THE VALE IRRIGATION PROJECT

The Vale Irrigation Project extends east from Harper to Vale and north to Jamieson. The eastern boundary of this large irrigation system, which embraces 31,000 acres of land is seventeen miles west of Ontario. Some 30,000 acres of "raw land" had been reclaimed by this project by 1935.

The Vale Project is supplied with water by two government reservoirs, the Warm Springs and the Beulah reservoirs. The Warm Springs reservoir is located on the middle fork of the Malheur river and the Beulah reservoir



—U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Photo.

Warm Springs Dam

in the Agency valley on the north fork of the Malheur about seventy miles west of the city of Vale. The Beulah reservoir, behind an earth type dam 1,799 feet in length and 90 feet in height, is capable of storing 60,000 acre-feet of water. The two reservoirs have an estimated capacity of 190,000 acre-feet of water as compared with 740,000 acre-feet impounded in the Owyhee reservoir, making 930,000 acre-feet stored in the three reservoirs to amply supply irrigation water for the 154,000 acres of land under the projects for at least two seasons. Thus farmers are protected in case of a water shortage during any one season.

In 1924 and 1925, Congress appropriated funds to start construction work on the Vale and Owyhee projects. Construction work was started on the two projects about the same time. The Vale project was the first to be put in operation. Irrigation water was available for the Harper Unit of the Vale Project in 1930 and water was delivered into the canals on March 11 of that year. The West Bully Creek Unit was supplied with water in March, 1931, and the East Bully Creek Unit in March, 1932. By 1935, 16,000 acres of land were served by the Vale Project and in 1936 10,000 more acres were watered under the Willow Creek Unit of the project.

In 1933 there was allotted from the P. W. A. funds \$5,000,000 to be



—U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Photo.

Agency Valley Dam at Beulah

used toward the completion of the Owyhee Project and in 1934 \$1,500,000 more was allotted for the same purpose. Main canals, siphons, tunnels and lateral-ditches were completed for the delivery of irrigation water for 10,000 acres in the spring of 1935 and 25,000 acres in the spring of 1936. These lands are in the Kingman and Mitchell Butte Units, extending from the Malheur river on the north to Adrain on the south. F. A. Banks was construction engineer in charge of the Owyhee Project and C. C. Ketchum was the engineer in charge of the Vale Project.

Unimproved land under the two projects was appraised and classified under the direction of the Secretary of Interior. The valuations were placed at from \$5.00 to \$15.00 per acre for unimproved "raw land." These same lands now improved and under cultivation are valued at from \$200 to \$300 per acre. The Vale and Owyhee projects were the first to be completed by the United States Government with the lands under the projects offered for settlement on an unimproved land price basis, with speculation and commissions for selling the land absolutely eliminated. Project construction charges were made payable annually, without interest, on very reasonable terms. The land drainage cost was included in the original cost of construc-

tion. The elevation of the lands under the projects ranges from 2,250 to 2,500 feet above sea level.

VALE-OWYHEE GOVERNMENT PROJECT LAND SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATION

A local organization composed of farmers and businessmen residing under the two projects was formed under the name of the Vale-Owyhee Land Project Settlement Association. The board of directors of the association were C. C. Hunt, farmer of Nyssa, chairman of the board; Robert D. Lytle, attorney of Vale, vice-chairman; Frank T. Morgan, farmer of Nyssa, secretary; H. C. Boyer, Ontario merchant; J. J. Sarazin, Nyssa physician; Ed Hendricks, Vale farmer; C. H. Harris, Jamieson farmer; E. M. Carter, Harper farmer; M. L. Judd, Nyssa farmer.

The Land Settlement Association was a non-profit organization that was organized for the purpose of interesting industrious settlers to locate on and develop the unimproved lands and become citizens of the communities under the two projects. This association dealt with the settlement of the Vale and Owyhee projects as though they were one, although they were two separate projects. One purpose of the association was to give reliable information about the two projects and the country in which they are located, climatic conditions and conservative information concerning crop yields.

The unimproved project lands were appraised as "dry land" by an impartial board of appraisal, consisting of one representative of the United States Bureau of Reclamation, one representative of the interested Irrigation District, and a third member was selected by the two first mentioned. Dr. Elwood Mead, who was chosen Commissioner of the United States Bureau of Reclamation in 1924, was the government member of this fact-finding committee. The appraisals made by the committee were approved by the Bureau of Reclamation.

All land owners who possessed more than 160 acres were required by the U. S. Reclamation Bureau to sell the excess land at the appraised valuation. The land was classified as to quality and suitability for irrigation and cultivation. Only land suitable for irrigation was subject to construction charges under the projects. The lands were appraised as to their value without water. Any land owner possessing less than 160 acres could sell at any price obtainable. But fifty per cent of the money derived from the sales, over the appraised valuation, had to be paid into the Irrigation District treasury and used to apply on the credit of the purchaser on the future water assessment of the land sold. This money was required to be paid into the District treasury at the time of the sale of the land. The reclamation bureau required that owners of seventy-five per cent of the land under the projects should sign contracts to comply with the above conditions before construction work was started. A great deal of the excess land was under the ownership of the state, county and large land and stock companies and had to be offered for sale at the appraised value.

The appraised value of land under the Vale Project was placed on file with the Vale Irrigation District at Vale and the bureau of reclamation at the county seat. The appraised value of lands under the Owyhee Project were placed on file with the Owyhee Irrigation District at Nyssa, and with the bureau of reclamation office in Ontario and also recorded in the office of the county clerk in Vale. The estimated cost of water to land owners under the two projects was approximately \$3.50 an acre per year, payable over a period of forty years without interest. The first payment did not become due until one year after the completion of the project supplying water for the land. Land under other irrigation projects usually sold at from \$50 to \$100 per acre unimproved, while unimproved land under the Vale and Owyhee projects had an average price of \$10 per acre.

These projects are traversed by four paved state highways—three of which are transcontinental—the Oregon Central, the Oregon Trail and the John Day highways. The fourth state highway, which traverses the East and West Bully Creek Units of the Vale Project, was constructed in 1932. Vale, Harper and Jamieson are the principal towns under the Vale Project. Ontario, Nyssa and Adrian, in Oregon, and Homedale, in Idaho, are the principle towns under the Owyhee Project.

CHAPTER 33

EARLY DAY SOCIAL EVENTS

*On with the dance! Let joy be unconfined.
No sleep 'till morn, when youth and pleasure meet,
To chase the fleeting hours with flying feet.*

—Lord Byron.

Dances and occasional grand balls were the most prominent social functions in Malheur county in the early days. The first memorable assemblage of pioneers in the county was at the historic Stone House on New Year's Eve, December 31, 1872. The gala event was a grand ball given by Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Rinehart to celebrate the opening of that famous hostelry to the public the next day, January 1, 1873. This stone structure, which had just been completed, was a very commodious and pretentious building.

The grand ball was attended by the scattered settlers, some came from fifty miles away, Malheur City and the more thinly settled sections being

represented from the upper country. Some of those in attendance were from Idaho, coming from as far away as Dixie Slough and Middleton, in the Boise valley. Others were from the Payette and Weiser valleys. The dance was held in the upper story of the hotel, which had not been petitioned off into rooms. Forty-one numbers were sold at \$5.00 a ticket, admitting that many couples to the dance and midnight supper. Music was furnished by two fiddlers who came from the Owyhee. There was no pretense of a grand parade, some few however, were arrayed in their "best bib and tucker," but most of those in attendance were dressed in common every-day garb, in which they felt more at ease. As the midnight hour approached the hall was cleared of dancers and two long tables brought in that extended almost the length of the room upon which a sumptuous banquet was spread. The next hour was spent by the guests in feasting after which the tables were cleared and removed. Dancing was resumed and continued until dawn.

The next notable social gathering of pioneers was at a Christmas dance in the log cabin home of Macomb Smith near the base of the Malheur butte on December 24, 1873.

It was over eleven years later that the second grand ball took place in the confines of the present county. This notable social function occurred in Ontario at the opening of the Railroad Hotel by Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Scott on Thanksgiving Day, 1884, at which there was another large gathering of pioneers to celebrate the occasion. The Caldwell brass band, accompanied by a delegation from that Idaho town, furnished the music for the occasion. The festivities, which closed with a grand ball and supper, were attended by several hundred people, including visitors from Weiser, Huntington, Payette, Vale, Malheur City and the interior. As was the custom of the day, the ball opened with a grand march, followed by the marchers forming into sets of four couples each for a square dance or Virginia reel. Then came the waltz, polka, schottische, minuet and the lancers. Each square dance was usually followed by a round dance.

The first and most memorable masquerade ball was held in Ontario on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1894. This grand masquerade ball was sponsored by "The Bachelor's Club," first social organization in the town. The leading members of the club were W. E. Bowen, E. A. Fraser and H. W. Clement. Mr. Bowen, editor of the *Ontario News*, was quite bald. He assumed the name of "Baldy" Bowen and bestowed the nick-names of Frisky Fraser and Cutie Clement on his two colleagues in making social mention of the trio, in *The News*.

The masquerade ball was held in a vacant store building that stood at the corner where the Ontario Pharmacy is now located. After being vacated as a store it was used as a dance hall. This masquerade ball was one of the most successful events of its kind, and there probably were more masquers and spectators present than at any succeeding masqued event in the city.

Seventy-five masquers participated. The same night masked balls were given at Weiser, Baker and Boise. The *Ontario News* of February 24, 1894, two days after these events, made this comment:

"Nothing succeeds like success, but to say anything was a success does not always carry to the mind of the hearer the favorable termination of anything attempted.

"However, we say the masquerade was a success. It was THE ball of the season. There was about seventy-five maskers, and everything went off smoothly. The boys deserve some credit for the orderly management of every detail and their untiring efforts to make it agreeable for their guests, and the numerous remarks of commendation from those present was sufficient evidence that their efforts were appreciated.

"Altogether the boys of the Club feel proud, very proud, and they have a right to do so. Weiser, with ten times the population of Ontario, had less than forty maskers at its dance. Baker City with about thirty times the population had only forty-nine maskers, and Boise City had about seventy.

"The population of Ontario is less than 120 inhabitants.

"There is one thing that deserves special mention, and which gave good satisfaction to the people from a distance, and that was the reserving of the small numbers for exchange, thus seating the distant guests at the first table at supper.

"The prizes were awarded as follows:

"Best lady's costume, Miss Katie Nevins of Weiser, as Bat; best gentleman's costume, Jacob Gregg, as Devil; best sustained character, Artie King, as Clown.

"The judges were Mrs. A. L. Gilispie, Mrs. Len Morton and Dan Purcell.

"We believe the judges gave as fair a decision as could be rendered when the fact that so many excellent costumes were worn, that it was a difficult matter to say which was the nicest, is taken into consideration. The instructions to the judges were to award the prizes to the costume that in their judgment best represented the character intended by the wearer to be represented.

"The decisions were given before the masks were removed, and the judges were entirely ignorant of the identity of the wearers. The judges were selected by the maskers themselves, the Club having nothing to say in their choice, and therefore, partiality cannot be laid upon anyone.

"The supper was up to the usual standard of excellence and Mrs. Crawford (Mrs. S. H. Ross) justified the judgment of the Club in selecting her to give it . . .

"Vale was well represented at the ball and the Club wishes us to thank them for their attendance. Among those who were down from Vale were D. C. Wells and wife, W. C. Wells and wife, E. R. Murray, Mrs. H. C. Murray, George Taylor and wife, John Pederson, Misses Nellie and Ollie Pederson, Miss Lucy Boston, Miss Mary Griffin, Miss Nellie Thomson, Mrs. L. B. Rinehart, J. R. Johnson, Seymour Ross, Will Anderson and J. L. Thomson."

Mrs. Susan D. Stroup, one of the interested spectators, composed the following lines in verse, which was published in *The News* under the caption, "*The Masquerade Ball*," which is here reproduced:

*'Twas the eve of the Twenty-Second
Of February, Ninety-Four,
And the crowd that met in Ontario,
Was the largest e're seen there before.*

*The occasion was a grand masked ball,
And the air with mystery was rife,
As the people arrived with grip and valise
Accompanied by sweetheart or wife.*

*The ball room was brilliantly lighted;
The orchestra played the grand entree,
And the crowd promenading down the long hall
Was beautiful and picturesque to see.*

*The Bride waltzed with the Catholic Priest;
The Clown led off with the Bat;
The Dancing Girl, with the tambourine,
Tried to dance with the man that was fat.*

*Uncle Tom came next, with old Aunt Chloe,
A wonderous sight to behold,
And the Popcorn Girl, with basket white,
Kept step with the Sailor bold.*

*The Gipsie was there with a crown on her head,
Glittering with jewels rare,
Her partner, a man with his knee out of joint,
And a shock of coarse grey hair.*

*And the Flower Girl, in gas-light green,
With roses on dress and cheek—
Waltz with the Devil with the long red plume,
But neither dared to speak.*

*And Starlight shone with a radiance fair,
Rivalled only by Day and Night.
And the Spanish Boy, who walked by her side,
Looked pale, in the silvery light.*

*And the Jew was there, the grasping Jew,
Of second-hand clothing fame,
And heeding not the light and warmth,
By his side, a Snow Storm came.*

*And the School Girl, too, with satchel and book,
Went skipping around the room,
And the Chinaman, who tride to keep step,
Did inwardly fret and fume.*

*The little Street Sweeper—modest of mein—
Was joined in the grand parade,
By jolly, quick witted Irish Pat
From the Emerald Isle, bedade.*

*The couple next in the promenade,
Was the lovely Morning Star,
And by her side, in a suit so neat,
A handsome Jolly Tar.*

*And now in this mixed assembly
Of people of every grade,
The stately Washington comes gliding by,
On his arm a Chambermaid.*

*And who comes next, but the sedate Judge,
Whose decisions are always right. (?)
His partner, a sweet little Flower Girl,
In garments of purest white.*

*And, what figure is this, made up of all colors,
A suggestion of every nation,
Beautifully comic, laughably absurd,
In fact a Conglomeration.*

*And the Dude was there,
As he always is, wherever people meet,
And with Bridget, the cook, for a partner,
Went round with flying feet.*

*And who comes next, ah, dare I tell?
To this scene of light and revel,
ONTARIO NEWS, a lovely nymph,
And a two-horned forked-tail Devil.*

I give the names of the maskers who impersonated the characters described by Mrs. Stroup, beginning with the fourth stanza of the seventeen verses and continuing to the end of the poem:

T. W. Halliday impersonated the Priest and Mrs. H. C. Murray, of Vale, the bride. There were three clowns among the maskers—James A. Walters, Arthur S. King and Theodore Danilson, Jr. As Mrs. Stroup is deceased there is no way of determining which of the three she designated as the "Clown that led off with the Bat," impersonated by Miss Kate Nevins. Miss Nevin and Art King were both prize winners. Art was only about 15 years old, and the frisky capers he cut appears to have impressed the judges to award him a secondary prize. Miss Nevin and myself were awarded the first prizes. I was masked as a black devil with two horns and a spear tail. Sanford N. Emison was masked as the "Red Devil" with the long red plume, with whom one of Mrs. Stroup's daughters, Miss Frankie Stroup, "waltzed with and neither dared to speak." Both recognized each other, so remained mum in an attempt to conceal their own identity.

Editor Bowen, of the *Ontario News*, arranged a neat coup to boost his newspaper. He knew that Sanford Emison and myself were masked as Devils and that we would enter the ball room together, which we did rather late. We arrived as the grand march was in progress. Bowen, masked as Conglomeration, with Miss Ollie Emison gaily arrayed as the *Ontario News*, were awaiting us at the door. Taking each of us by the hand, the *Ontario News*, with a printer's devil on either side, promenaded the full length of the hall and back between the long line of maskers lined up in two columns. I was the printer's devil on the *Ontario News* so sustained my own character. Miss Jeffie Jones was also masked as the *Ontario News*.

Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Halliday, the former masked as the Priest and the latter as the Evening Star, led the grand march, an honor generally conferred on them at grand balls. Two others in attendance from the White Settlement, A. A. (Doc) Brown and A. H. McGregor, impersonated "Uncle Tom and Old Aunt Chloe." Miss Alta Stroup, another daughter of the poetess, was the Popcorn Girl, who "kept step" with Charles R. Emison, "the Sailor bold." Miss Edna Clement was the Gipsy Girl and Thomas Jones, "the man with his knee out of joint," impersonating William Shelby. Miss Mary Griffin appeared as Starlight, Mrs. S. L. Spann as Day and Night, and Seymour H. Ross was the Spanish Boy. Miss Ida Cowin was "the School Girl, with sachel and book" and Ed R. Murray was the Chinaman. Will Anderson impersonated "the stately Washington," and Miss Lucy Boston the Chambermaid. C. H. Leach was "the sedate Judge," and Ed King "the sweet little Flower Girl in garments of purest white." Ed was only about seventeen and his costume easily deceived Leach, who thought he was dancing with the girl he afterward married and did not discover his error until after the dancers were unmasked. Mrs. Belle McGregor Husted was the Morning

Star and her husband, H. T. Husted was the Jolly Tar. U. G. Pogue was the "grasping Jew" and Mrs. Tina Chambers a Snowstorm. Miss Josie Danilson impersonated "the little Street Sweeper," and George A. Darr was Irish Pat. John R. Johnson was masked as a Dude and Miss Belle Blanton as Bridget.

The above named maskers and the character each represented is taken from the list published in the *Ontario News* of February 24, 1894, as are the others given below whose characters were not described in the poem:

"Misses Myrtle Greer, Red Riding Hood; Lou Eblen, Knight; Nellie Thomson, Waiting Maid; Nellie Pederson, Ten of Diamonds; Ollie Pederson, Dancing Girl; Lillite Davis, Gipsy Queen; Julia Brinnon, Darkey School Girl; Mesdames Thomas Jones, Poker Deck; Villa Davis, Eclipse; A. A. Brown, Queen of Faries; D. C. Wells, Girl of the Regiment; Mrs. William Smith, character not given. Messrs. George Taylor, Tambourine Girl; Frank Davis, "Nigger" Wench; George Long and Len Morton, Traveling Men; H. W. Clement, Parson Whitehead; Roy Rutherford and Jenks Morton, School Boys; Hick Jones, Biddy; Andy McGregor, Chinaman; Frank Eblen, Judge; Frank Welch, Cowboy; Rube Morton, Farmer; Harry Plummer, Dude; Ben Rutherford, Jap; A. J. Lewis, George Eblin and Ross Draper, Irishmen; William Shelby, Idem. Other maskers who did not represent characters were Will Wells; J. L. Thomson, John Pederson, J. H. Fresh, J. D. Holton and Mason Carter.

Many of the spectators expressed the opinion that Tom Jones, impersonating William Shelby, "a man with his knee out of joint," was entitled to the gentleman's prize for the best sustained character. Mr. Shelby had had one of his legs injured many years before by a horse falling on him. His lame leg was shorter than the other limb. But despite this infirmity he was a good jig dancer. He always danced with the game leg well out in front of the other limb. For the occasion, Tom, to better aid him in his disguise, borrowed some of Shelby's clothes, including the black derby hat he generally wore, and a pair of trousers with a buckskin patch on the seat, which the saddle maker always wore when working at his bench. One reason Tom did not carry off first honors was because he sustained the character so well that the judges, as well as most of the spectators, mistook him for the real Shelby, as he came dancing by the judges' stand with his pretended game leg well out in front of the other limb, keeping perfect step with the music.

Mr. Shelby had kept well out of sight, watching his double perform through a window from outside the dance hall, greatly enjoying the performance. Finally, unable to resist the temptation to "trip the light fantastic," Shelby obtained a mask and entered the ball room. A round dance was in progress and Shelby came dancing down the long hall alone, just as his double was doing, and about two or three couples behind Tom. William Smith, a former landlord of the Neathery Hotel, was among the many interested spectators. Addie Lewis, who had unmasked, was seated near Smith. Still masked, I was seated nearby. As Tom danced by us, Smith addressed Lewis in disgust: "What did Shelby go and get masked for! Didn't

the old fool know everybody would know him?" Lewis, who was Shelby's brother-in-law, replied: "I'll bet you \$5.00 that's not Shelby." No sooner had Smith agreed to accept the wager when the real Shelby, who had but recently donned a mask, came dancing past Smith, a short distance behind his double. The astonished Smith threw up his hands and exclaimed: "Well then, by gosh, that's Shelby."

Six years later a second well-attended grand masked ball took place in Ontario, but the number of maskers and spectators in attendance was not nearly as large as the first memorable event. The second ball took place in the dining room of the old Wilson or Ontario Hotel in commemoration of Washington's Birthday, on February 22, 1900.

Some years later, at the time the "ghost dance" craze was staged by the Sioux at Standing Rock Indian reservation in the Dakotas, a masquerade "ghost dance" was enjoyed by the young people of Ontario at the old opera house. All the masqueraders, both male and female, arrayed themselves in bed-sheet and pillow-slips, and the disguises were most complete. It was very difficult to distinguish one dancer from another. Some of the ladies danced together in the round dances, and some of the men—through mistake—chose male partners. In the square dances some of the men danced on the wrong side of their partners and of course the ladies did likewise. With their forms completely enshrouded in bed sheets, like long funeral shrouds, and their heads encased in pillow slips, with two small holes slit in the slips for eyes, through which the maskers peeped, and a third slit below like a mouth, through which to breathe, the dancers had much difficulty in picking out even their best friends. As a complete disguise this was the most successful social affair of its kind in ancient, and probably modern times in the city's history. Vale staged a number of similar social functions of which I am not so familiar.

HORSE RACING PRINCIPAL SPORT

As previously stated, the First Fourth of July celebration in Malheur county took place in Ontario in 1886. In the early days, Ontario, Vale, Payette, Weiser, and later Nyssa, alternately observed Independence Day with a grand celebration. At each observance of the natal day by these neighboring towns, the ones not celebrating, became the invited guests of their neighbor and all joined in making the event a grand success.

Usually the day's festivities opened with the firing of the national salute at sunrise by a heavy charge of gun-powder placed between two blacksmith's anvils. A grand street parade would start about 10 a.m. The patriotic program opened about 11 a.m., with the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner," and the reading of the Declaration of Independence, followed by a patriotic address. Next came a musical program, including the singing of "America,"

and other patriotic songs. A sports program in the afternoon began about 1:00 p.m., which generally included horse racing, foot races between men, boys, girls, and sack racing, and sometimes catching a greased pig and climbing a greased pole. A grand display of fireworks opened the night performances which closed with a grand ball that continued until the dawn of the next day.

Horse racing was the principal sport in the old days. The first race meet in the county—a three-day event—took place at Ontario in the fall of 1888. The race course—a quarter-mile straight track—was in the north part of town. The starting post was near the T. D. Barton adobe-cabin. The track ran in a southeasterly direction, the finish line being just back of the high board fence at the rear of the J. T. Clement lumber yard. Oregon street had not been extended north of the race track, neither were there any dwellings north of the track at that time. The track was quite heavy and sandy.

Dexter, owned by W. E. Hulery, and Mormon Boy, owned by W. J. Scott, were the fastest local race horses. Dexter won the race against Mormon Boy in the main event and also defeated him in later race meets. Both animals were sorrels. Karl Paine, later a leading attorney in Boise, rode Dexter to many victories at Ontario, Vale, Payette and other nearby towns.

On each day of this first race meet about three races took place. The first race would be a cow pony or saddle horse race, followed by a race among faster horses, with the thoroughbreds appearing last on the program.

Robert Vesil at the time the village blacksmith, had purchased an old broken down cow pony, which may have been the first horse he ever owned. Vesil appears to have gained the impression that his horse was among the fastest cow ponies in the country, and it would be easy for him to carry off first money in the saddle horse event. Most every evening for some time before the races, Vesil could be seen on the track exercising his steed. I believe it was on the second day of the meet when the cow pony race was called. Vesil appeared mounted on his prancing charger. He had decided to ride his own horse and not trust a jockey. Soon the horses were off, all in a bunch, followed by a thick cloud of dust. The race was very close between the leaders. There was no fence, railing or anything to bar the spectators from crowding onto the track. As soon as the horses passed under the wire, and even before the thick dust had began to settle many of the spectators rushed out on the track toward the judges' stand to find out which horse was the winner, as it was naturally supposed all the horses in the race had passed under the wire. As the spectators crowded onto the track, some one seeing another horse coming down the home stretch yelled, "look out!" There was a sudden scrambling off the track as Vesil mounted on his charger, came dashing to the finish line behind the dust of the other horses.

Harry Plummer was one of the best jockeys of these early racing days.

He and his brother-in-law, Buell J. Clement, owned some fast horses that won first money at this and other race meets in Ontario.

After the north portion of the town became more thickly settled the race track was abandoned and another straight track was built in the west part of town. This was an improvement on the first track as the ground was much firmer here and devoid of sand.

The first race track at Vale was in the northwest part of that town and the ground on which it was built was similar to the second track in Ontario.

The one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of our national independence was celebrated in Ontario Thursday, July 4, 1901. Many people from the surrounding towns and the interior country came to participate in the festivities. Following is an account of the celebration published in the *Argus*, July 7, 1901:

"'Ontario did herself proud,' was the unanimous verdict of the many hundreds of people who patriotically participated in the grand celebration in this city on Thursday, July 4. The stars and stripes floating proudly over all, lent a scene of patriotic enchantment above the beautiful decorations of red, white and blue, in which colors the city was magnificently enveloped. Our businessmen fairly outdid themselves on this occasion in their efforts to excel in artistic designs and beautiful arrangements in individual decorations in commemoration of this great national holiday.

"There were hundreds of visitors from the interior and neighboring towns—people by the score, who came to take part with our enterprising and hospitable people in enjoying themselves.

"The firing of the national salute at sunrise Thursday morning sounded the opening of the day's festivities. The day dawned bright and clear in our fair little city and every citizen, young and old, prepared to celebrate with a true '76 patriotic spirit, such as imbued and inherited by every young American; not only in Ontario, but all over this broad land and in our far away possessions. The anniversary of American independence was fittingly honored . . .

"At 10 a.m., the procession, in charge of Marshal-of-the-day, J. T. Clement, formed at the Hotel Ontario and marched north through the principal streets of the city. It was truly a magnificent affair, headed by the Weiser band. Next came the Goddess of Liberty car, followed by floats with colonial characters, and then came the elegant floats prepared by our businessmen. The Liberty car, followed directly behind the band, with Miss Jeffie Jones, holding the flag-staff of Freedom, while Old Glory proudly waved in mid air above her graceful form. Seated on the Liberty car were forty-five younger girls representing the different states of the Union . . .

"Following the Colonial car came E. Pluribus Unum, represented by Miss Julia Brinnon, mounted on a beautiful sorrel horse, followed by six ladies riding two abreast on spirited chargers representing the Red, White and Blue. They were Mrs. W. E. Hulery and her sister, Miss Belle Blandon, dressed in red; Miss Iva Purcell and Miss Lizzie Butler, dressed in white; Mrs. William Jones and Miss Mabel Moore, attired in blue. A noticeable feature of the parade was the splendid horsemanship displayed by these seven ladies. All the other characters in the parade were remarkably well sustained and special mention should be made of each, but space will not permit.

"First in the procession of business floats came the Malheur Mercantile Company. Their float, drawn by four horses, was driven by A. H. McGregor. The wagon was handsomely decorated with the national colors and loaded with merchandise pertaining to their mammoth business.

"The *Ontario Argus* was appropriately represented by a float also profusely decorated with the national colors."

CHAPTER 34

THE KNITTING OF THE CLANS

*I go to knit two clans together;
The clan of your clan, and the clan of yore;
I was sad last night, today I am sadder,
Because I go from my mother's door.*

—Anonymous.

We now come to "the knitting of the clans," the merging of the old west with the new, with the failing of mines and the passing of the large herds of stock, to be succeeded by more extensive agricultural developments. Unlike the poet, it is with pleasure rather than sadness and an appreciation of the act of kind providence that I have been permitted to live longer than "the allotted age of man, of three score years and ten." I now have the satisfaction of recording many of the most important historic events in Malheur county, dating from the time of the first settlement to the present day.

As a boy of fifteen, I often paused at the close of a long sultry summer afternoon, when my attention was attracted by a thick cloud of yellow dust soaring skyward from the sagebrush hills back of the Malheur butte stirred up by a band of range horses galloping down to the river to drink. More clouds of dust could be seen ascending in the Malheur valley as slow moving herds of beef cattle were being driven toward Ontario to be shipped to market. Along the old military road smaller columns of dust arose at intervals from behind heavily loaded freight wagons coming or going from the railroad to the interior, drawn mostly by four-horse teams. Sometimes heavy wagons with a trailer were drawn by six, eight and ten-horse teams.

For the first forty years following the discovery of gold in Mormon basin in the northwest and the establishment of stock ranches in Jordan valley in the southeastern part in 1863, Malheur county was strictly a mining and stock raising country. In the 1880's when the mines began to fail some of the miners who had prospered turned their attention to stock raising and ranching. Some of the mines in the Malheur City section continued to produce well until the late Nineties.

With the increase in settlement—mostly by farmers from the middle states—coming here in the late Eighties and early Nineties, agriculture gradually replaced stock raising as the main industry. The old time stock-

men readily accustomed themselves to the new conditions brought about by the application of water to desert lands in the new gravity system of irrigation. Before that wild grass, raised by sub-irrigation, provided the principal stock feed. Now the pioneers, reinforced by the newer population coming from the east and by others from the western part of the state, united in building up the "Great Inland Empire" through the method of diversified farming. Farming by means of irrigation gradually increased until the government finally became interested, which resulted in the installation of the Vale and Owyhee irrigation projects.

Alfalfa was first introduced in the county about 1880 and soon became the main forage crop, replacing wild grass hay. Some wild hay was baled in the early days while alfalfa hay was mostly sold in the field or in the stack. It was not until some time later that alfalfa hay was baled. Wheat, barley and oats were extensively planted and produced abundant crops on the new bench lands brought under cultivation. Barley—requiring less moisture to grow than other grain—was raised by dry-land farmers without irrigation. All kinds of fruit and berries, except tropical varieties, were grown in abundance.

Blacktail jackrabbits were numerous in the early days. In January, 1888, W. L. Geary & Co., of Ontario, bought and shipped a carload of rabbits to the Portland meat market. My two brothers and I killed a number of rabbits which we delivered to the Ontario mercantile firm for part of the shipment.

About two years later jackrabbits had so greatly increased in number that they destroyed many gardens and devastated some crops of young alfalfa. In an effort to stamp out the pests the county put a three-cent bounty on each pair of rabbit ears. Hunters made good wages in shooting jackrabbits with 22-rifles and clipping off their ears which were taken to the county clerk at Vale to collect the bounty. I. H. Adams, of the Steele & Adams ranch, furnished ammunition and free board to hunters who would hunt in the vicinity of his alfalfa fields. My brother, Fred, who was an expert shot with a 22-rifle and June Ingersoll accepted this offer. The the reader may gain some idea as to how numerous the pests were, June Ingersoll shot and missed the rabbit sitting under a sagebrush. Walking up to the place where the rabbit had been sitting he discovered that he had killed another rabbit on the opposite side of the sagebrush that he had not previously seen. During the following winter rabbits ate into the side of a large alfalfa haystack until it toppled over from the wind.

The rabbit bounty was reduced to two-cents and later rescinded when funds set aside to pay rabbit bounties became exhausted and the drain on the county to pay bounties became too great. When rabbit-wire netting was introduced into the county, farmers who could afford to do so protected their crops from rabbits by fencing their fields with wire netting. The number

of pests were greatly reduced by organized rabbit drives in which large numbers of settlers came from miles around to take part. Firearms were banned to prevent accidents from careless shooting. Armed only with clubs the participants formed lines a mile or more in extent around a locality where rabbits were known to be numerous then gradually closed in and clubbed the animals to death when they attempted to break through the encirclement.

For the protection of sheepmen a scalp bounty of \$1.00 was put on coyotes and wildcats. One year an epidemic of hydrophobia broke out among coyotes in the Westfall vicinity. Many cattle and other domestic animals died from rabies after being bitten by mad coyotes.

In 1897, it was estimated that 35,000 tons of alfalfa hay were harvested in Malheur county. The same year the estimated bushels of grain were: wheat, 10,000; oats, 20,000; barley, 40,000. Among other farm products were, potatoes, 20,000 bushels; apples, 1,000 bushels; prunes and plums, 100 bushels. Butter and cheese, 20,000 pounds; fish 5,000 pounds; and 800,000 pounds of wool was marketed. Estimated number of stock sold: sheep, 50,000 head; cattle, 20,000; horses and mules, 5,000; hogs, 500. There was \$100,000 in gold mined that year, and 500,000 feet of lumber produced.

The rapid growth of the livestock industry in the early days—covering a period of thirteen years—from 1886 to 1899, is revealed by the following figures: In 1888, there was shipped from Ontario, 673 cars of livestock and two train loads of wool. Ten years later, 1896, there were shipped 1,039 cars of livestock, valued at \$750,000. In 1899, during a period of six weeks, there was shipped \$1,500,000 worth of cattle from Ontario. The Malheur county assessment roll of 1901 gave the value of stock in the county as, cattle, \$312,605; sheep, \$201,870; horses and mules, \$80,975; hogs, \$970.

With the increasing development and expansion of improved farm lands agriculture and horticulture replaced stock raising in the valley portions of the county, although large numbers of range stock still roam over the hills. But loose stock no longer wander at will to feed on a free range. With the enactment of the Taylor grazing law free grazing of stock on government land was banned, thus confining loose stock to land leased from the government by their owners, in the hilly sections unsuitable for farming. Unlike the early days practically all range stock are now rounded up in the late fall and taken to their winter feed yards.

In the year 1897, according to an estimate, the number of stock sold in the county was: sheep, 50,000; cattle, 20,000; horses and mules, 5,000; hogs, 500; and 800,000 pounds of wool marketed.

The 1901 assessment roll gave the value of stock in the county as, cattle, \$312,605; sheep, \$201,876; horses and mules, \$80,975; hogs, \$970.

About 40,000 head of beef cattle and 366,000 head of sheep were estimated to be on the range in the county in 1930.

In 1940, R. M. McKennon, at that time Malheur county agricultural agent, made public this information concerning the livestock industry in the county and its relation to the farming industry:

"The irrigated valleys of Malheur county are the center of one of the largest stock producing areas of the West. An indication of the magnitude of the range livestock business in the surrounding area is indicated by statistics, which reveals that the United States grazing service has licensed 53,653 head of cattle, 5,144 horses, and 172,012 sheep on Malheur county ranges, and that animals on lands adjacent to Malheur county brings the total of range animals in tributary areas to 178,576 head of cattle, 14,928 horses, and 862,808 head of sheep."

According to the report 222,000 acres of farming land is under cultivation in the county and approximately 5,000,000 of grazing land. Livestock on the range, which are brought in to feed during the winters, furnishes a convenient market for a large portion of the hay and grain food produced on the farms.

As high as eight and ten tons of alfalfa hay per acre is produced annually. In 1929, E. A. Boston reported a yield of 105 tons of alfalfa hay from ten acres on his place in the Malheur valley above Vale, averaging over ten ton per acre for that year.

Figures compiled by County Agricultural Agent R. M. McKennon reveal that total acreage of irrigated farm, producing crops in 1939, was about 130,000, of which 48,000 more than one-third of the total acreage was in alfalfa. The alfalfa acreage that year produced 192,000 tons of alfalfa hay with an estimated gross value of \$960,000. Of this 48,000 acres, 3,500 acres produced 700,000 pounds of alfalfa seed, valued at \$126,000. The combined crops of alfalfa hay and seed from this acreage gave an estimated gross value of \$1,086,000 for the season. This amounted to almost one-third of the total value of crops produced in the county that year, which was estimated at \$3,676,980.

Agent McKennon also noted that alfalfa has always been the largest single crop in the county in point of acreage, and that in the last fifteen years of the preceding twenty-five years alfalfa crops have nearly equaled the combined acreage of all irrigated crops produced in the county.

Over a long period of years the most profitable fruit crops have been apples and prunes. At one time W. G. Jenkins owned in the vicinity of Arcadia what was then said to be the largest prune orchard in the world.

The country is well adapted to farming, fruit growing, dairying, livestock and poultry raising. Truck farming includes onions, cabbage, peas, lettuce, celery and berries. Local associations of stock raisers, wool growers, dairy farmers, and fruit growers are well organized. The National Grange has a large membership among the farming population.

William Shinn was the first and H. R. Britehaup was the second agri-

cultural agent for the county. They established their office in Ontario. Malheur county, co-operating with the Oregon Agricultural College, has maintained two advisory agricultural agents for many years. The 1925 report of the Agricultural College set forth that the average of all crops on irrigated lands in Malheur county exceeded that of all other counties in the state.

Charles Garrison, a prominent farmer of the Nyssa neighborhood, who came from Colorado in 1917, rented a 160-acre farm from J. E. Reese. The next two years this farm yielded him annually 700 tons of alfalfa hay and 2,000 bushels of wheat. In the two years he accumulated enough to purchase a 90-acre farm three and a half miles southwest of Nyssa. In an open letter dated January 1, 1935, he gave the following figures of his average crop records from 1920 to 1935 on his 90-acre farm, which illustrates what an industrious farmer can produce from the fertile Malheur county soil: wheat, from 50 to 80 bushels per acre; oats, 80 to 100 bushels per acre; alfalfa hay, from five to six tons per acre; corn, from 60 to 100 bushels per acre. He gave as his average corn crop 75 bushels per acre. Mr. Garrison stated that in 1928 his wheat crop averaged 80 bushels per acre. His average potato crops for the above fifteen years were from 200 to 300 sacks, (weighing 100 lbs.) per acre; and produced as high as 400 sacks, weighing 100 lbs. each), per acre of onions. He received as high as \$400 per acre for head lettuce. Clover seed averaged seven to eight tons per acre after cutting one crop of clover hay that averaged about one to one and one-half tons to the acre.

In 1933, Pieter Tensen, another prominent Nyssa farmer, averaged 47 bushels of lima beans on seventeen acres. Dick Groot, another farmer of the same vicinity, harvested crops averaging 44 bushels of these beans to the acre.

Malheur county is one of the few sections of the West adapted to raising corn, and is one of the outstanding corn-growing sections of the United States, with an average yield greater than Illinois and other middle states of the famous corn belt. Because of cool summer nights it was thought for many years that the climatic conditions in the county were not adaptable to raising field corn. In the early days only sweet corn varieties for table use was grown. It was not until about 1915 that field corn became one of the leading crops. In 1930, Pieter Tensen harvested over 45 acres of corn that yielded from 50 to 100 bushels per acre, with an average yield of 80 bushels to the acre. Fred Koopman, another native of Holland residing in the Nyssa vicinity, harvested ten acres of corn with an average measured yield of 95 bushels per acre.

The Farmers Supply Company, handling dairy products, was first established on a small scale in 1935 with a distributing station at Cairo Junction. The membership at the time of organization was about fifty. By 1940 the

membership had increased to 943 with modern stations established at Ontario and Nyssa. Dividends for the first six months of 1940 totaled \$3,700, bring the total dividends for the first five years of the company's existence to \$28,000. Nelson P. Grover, one of the organizers, who for nearly thirty years had been a prominent farmer of Cairo community, now of Caldwell, was the company's general manager.

The Malheur Dairy Herd Improvement Association was organized at Nyssa on January 13, 1940. George W. Palmer of Ontario, was chosen president and director at large; H. B. Williams, of Nyssa, vice-president and director for the Adrian community; R. F. Countryman, of Ontario, secretary-treasurer, and director of the Ontario community; A. P. Goodell, of Nyssa, director of the Nyssa community; Fred Burgess, of Vale, director of the Vale community.

Among the associations formed in the county to engage in cooperative marketing are the Farmers' Cooperative Creamery, the International Agricultural Credit Association, Northwest Turkey Growers' Association, Idaho-Oregon Turkey Growers' Association, Hay Growers' Association, Seed Growers' Association, Bean Growers' Association, Egg Producers' Association, and the Snake River Grain Growers, Incorporated.

A survey made by the State Agricultural College of 514 dairy herds in twenty-two Oregon counties, twenty of which herds were in Malheur county developed that butter-fat is produced in the irrigated sections of Malheur county at a cost of from five to seven cents less than in the more highly developed dairy districts in Oregon west of the Cascade mountains. Another survey made by the Agricultural College revealed that the cost of producing alfalfa on the irrigated lands in this county is the lowest of any county in the state. The 1925 report of the college showed the average yield of all crops per acre on irrigated lands in the county exceeds that of all other counties in the state.

There were approximately 122,000 acres of land irrigated under the Vale-Owyhee projects in 1935 in Malheur county. That year the county agricultural agent made a survey of crop yields from these lands in order that authentic information would be available. The following table is taken from this report:

Crop	Number Farms Reporting	Average Yield	High Yield
Wheat	45	47.7 bu.	80 bu.
Barley	14	57.7 bu.	90 bu.
Oats	8	59.0 bu.	103 bu.
Corn	31	59.9 bu.	100 bu.
Alfalfa	51	5.6 tons	8 tons
Alfalfa seed	8	5.5 bu.	10 bu.
Red Clover seed	33	5.0 bu.	11 bu.
Potatoes	20	175.0 sacks	300 sacks
Prunes	4	4.5 bu.	7.13 tons
Apples	8	187.0 bu	638 bu.

With the decline in livestock shipments from Ontario the shipments of agricultural products gradually increased until they surpassed the former in 1933 as shown by Mr. Drane's table here reproduced:

RAIL SHIPMENTS ORIGINATING IN MALHEUR COUNTY

(By carload lots)

Year	Agriculture Products	Live Stock	Other Shipments	Total
1932	420	540	60	1020
1933	549	478	72	1098
1934	1179	712	167	2058
1935	1186	1168	144	2498
1936	1125	332	26	1483
1937	1598	426	84	2108
1938	1783	394	341	2518
1939	2441	521	1060	4022
1940	3223	805	724	4752
Total	13503	5376	2679	21557

The first recorded shipments of corn, as compiled by Mr. Drane, was in 1922, when two carloads were shipped, while in 1936, twenty-seven cars were shipped.

The earliest records of potato shipments was in 1914 when 14 carloads were shipped. In 1924 car shipments numbered 105, and the following year, 1923, dropped to 77 cars. In 1924 the number of cars increased to 111. In 1932 only 12 cars of potatoes were shipped from Ontario. But in 1938 potato shipments increased to 123 cars, and in 1939 to 153 carloads.

The first shipments of lettuce from Ontario, according to Agent Drane's record, was in 1922 when 55 carloads were shipped. The next year, 1923, 57 cars were shipped. But in 1924 only 32 cars of lettuce were shipped. The next shipments recorded was ten years later, 1934, which totaled only two cars. The greatest number of carloads of this product shipped in any one year totaled 84 carloads in 1939.

The first onions shipped from Ontario, as recorded by the former railroad station agent, was in 1924, numbering two carloads. Ten years later, 1934, the annual shipment numbered 90 carloads. In 1937 there were 123 carloads shipped and in 1939 the carload lots increased to 170.

The first shipment of seeds was in 1928 when 21 carloads went out. In 1933 the number dropped to only three carloads, but in 1938, a banner year, seed shipments totaled 47 carloads.

Incomes from agriculture and livestock set an all time record in 1944, up to that time, but this record was broken in 1945 in Malheur county, according to estimate made by Ralph E. Brooke, at that time agricultural agent of the county.

Following are the figures for 1944 as compiled by the county agent:

Onions, 2,800 acres, produced 1,120,000 sacks, valued at \$1,200,000.

Potatoes, 12,000 acres, 180,000 sacks, \$2,520,000.

Sugar beets, 15,000 acres, 150,000 tons, \$3,125,000.

Lettuce, 3,000, 200,000 crates, \$150,000.

Celery, 260 cars, 75,000 crates, \$150,000.

Wild hay, 21,000 acres, 31,000 tons, \$252,000.

Corn, 5,000 acres, 350,000 bushels, \$250,000.

Wheat, 8,000 acres, 320,000, \$320,000.



WASHINGTON

Columbia River

Walla Walla

Pendleton

Deschutes River

John Day River

JOHN DAY TRAIL

OLD OREGON TRAIL

Snake River

BLUE MOUNTAINS

La Grande

Baker

Powder River

Huntington

Crooked

ROUTE OF THE LOST EMIGRANT TRAIL

Area of the Lost Blue Bucket Mine

North Fork

Malheur River

Middle Fork Malheur River

South Fork Malheur River

Burns

Harney Lake

Malheur Lake

Tub Springs

Yale

Ontario

Nyssa

Owyhee River

Jordan Valley

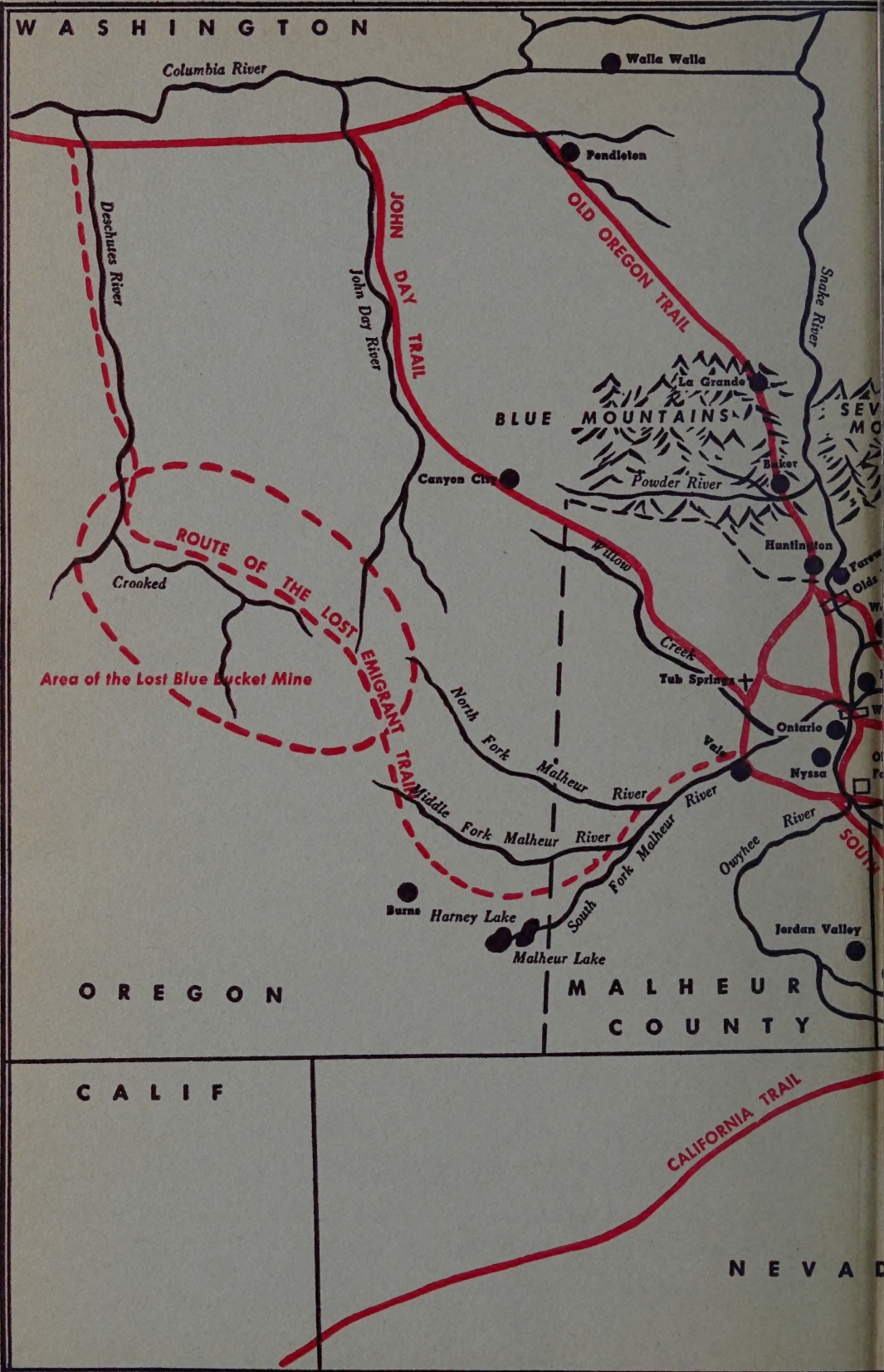
OREGON

MALHEUR COUNTY

CALIF

CALIFORNIA TRAIL

NEVADA



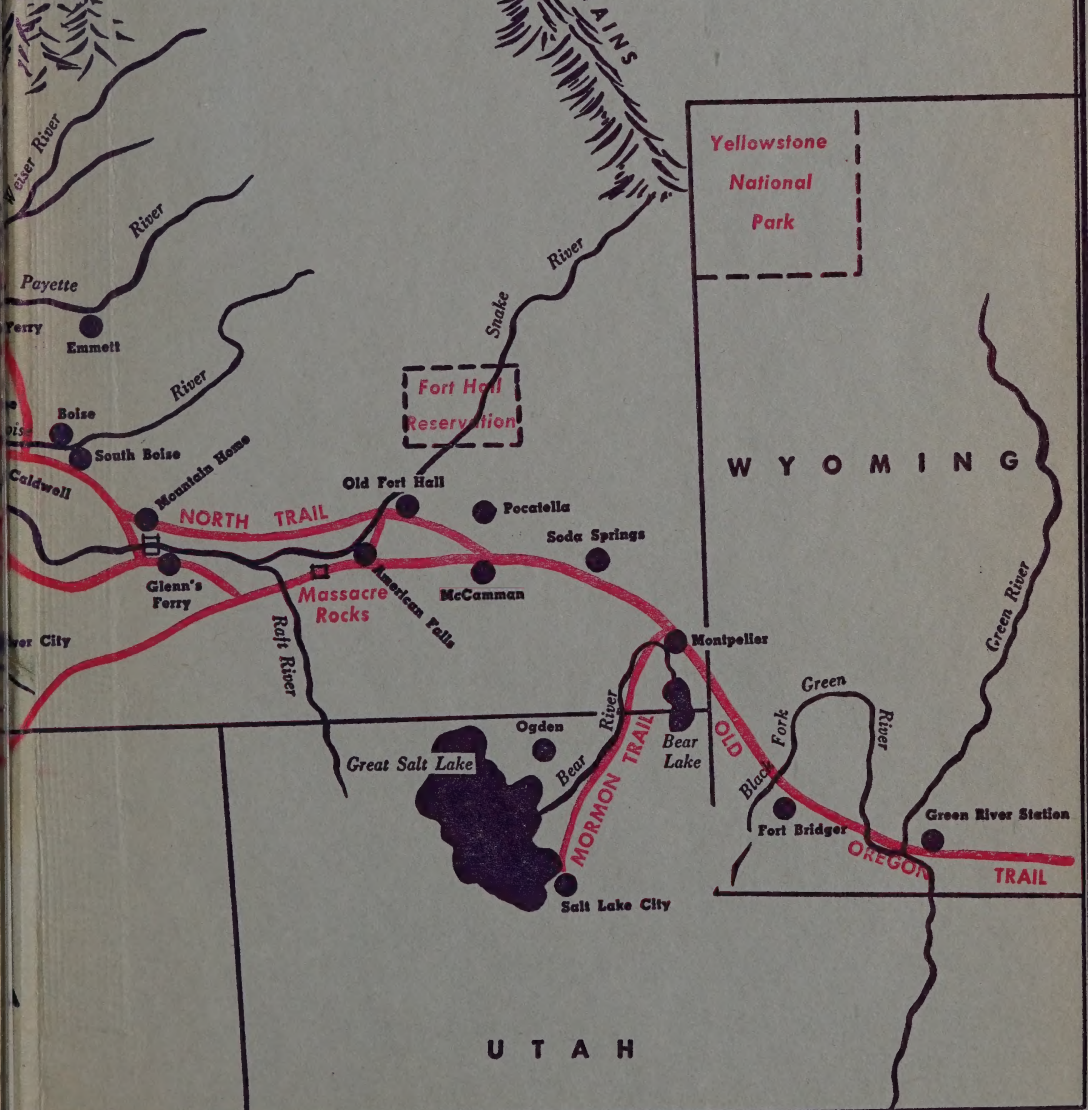
Over the wagon tracks diverge
 Like strands of a parted skein
 Anon the Old Trail straightened out
 And gathered them in again.

—MRS. J. C. DAVIS

IDAHO

DEVILS
 PAINS

MONTANA



UTAH

